



February 2006

York Regional Council Highlights



The Regional Municipality of York



York Region continues support for Road Watch Program

York Regional Council voiced its opposition to aggressive drivers by renewing its commitment to the Road Watch Program.

Road Watch is a community-based initiative that gives residents and visitors an opportunity to report dangerous aggressive drivers the police. The Program targets dangerous driving through awareness, education and Police enforcement.

Road Watch was initiated in 1995 by a group of concerned citizens in the community of Caledon following a growing number of fatal collisions. Since that time, the Road Watch program has been adopted by a number of other communities throughout Ontario and has reduced incidences of aggressive driving.

Road Watch encourages concerned community members and motorists to complete a Citizen Report form when they observe a motorist demonstrating unsafe driving behaviour. The forms are available at www.york.ca and www.police.york.on.ca

Character Community Council 2005 Highlights and 2006 Work Plan

Regional Council received a report regarding the Character Community Council's 2005 Highlights and the 2006 Work Plan and Budget.

Highlights for 2005 include:

- More than 45 Character Community Organizations to date
- More than 75 Registered Character Businesses to date
- Launch of the "Building Character" book
- 2nd Annual Character Conference
- Establishment of the Town of Richmond Hill Character Committee
- Town of Aurora Character Day
- Wall of Character at the Cardinal Golf Club

Key objectives:

- Continue to market "Building Character" book
- Continue to promote the Character initiative with business, community groups and government
- Continue to promote the Character initiative with residential builders, real estate agents and rate payer associations
- Build affiliate relationships
- Publish and share local character in action stories

Budget:

- York Region funds the salary, benefits and appropriate expenses of the Executive Director
- All other program expenditures are funded through the Character Council's other sources of revenue

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Long Range Fiscal Planning Strategy

York Regional Council endorsed the development of a Long Range Fiscal Planning Strategy with a Capital Financing Plan which is based on the long-term objective of maintaining a superior credit rating and a Capital Asset Management Plan.

The purpose of the Long Range Fiscal Planning Strategy is to deal with near-term and intermediate financing issues relating to the growing use of debt and declining liquidity position due to growth-related infrastructure needs; and provide an action plan to support the development of a comprehensive Capital Asset Management Plan which will address the rehabilitation and/or replacement of capital assets and the long-term funding requirements to minimize short-term impacts on the tax levy and user rates.

York Region recognizes March 2006 as Red Cross Month

York Regional Council has recognized March 2006 as Red Cross Month.

The goal of Red Cross Month is to raise awareness of the services Red Cross provides; not only around the world, but in each and every Canadian Community.

Red Cross staffers offer many valuable community services including Disaster Response Services, Safety Services Training, Meals on Wheels, Transportation Services and Home Healthcare Equipment loans. When disaster strikes, Red Cross staff and volunteers are always present to help those affected.

Red Cross Month will give York Region residents a better understanding of how the organization services their community.

York Region Transit surpasses 15 million riders in 2005

York Region Transit (YRT) and Viva Rapid Transit continued their impressive ridership growth in 2005, carrying 15.2 million passengers – an increase of 10.2 per cent from 2004.

The 2005 ridership statistics mark the fifth consecutive year of 10 per cent or greater growth in passengers since YRT was formed in 2001.

Transit ridership received a significant boost from September to December with the addition of Viva Rapid Transit. Passenger boarding numbers for YRT and Viva since the Viva launch last September have increased 21 per cent, reflecting the popularity of both the rapid service and the two-hour “hop on, hop off” policy per fare.

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Additional vehicles for Viva fleet

York Regional Council has authorized the purchase of five additional 60-foot articulated rapid transit vehicles to add to its 85-vehicle fleet in an effort to keep timely service along the Yonge Street corridor.

The buses, to be provided by Van Hool N.V. of Belgium, will cost approximately \$3.8 million and will be operational by September.

Mobility Plus Transit to add two new stops in the City of Toronto for passengers

York Regional Council has granted a request to add two addresses – 4000 Don Mills Road and 4700 Bathurst Street – to its list of 36 destinations approved for provision of cross-boundary Mobility Plus Transit service into the City of Toronto on a one-year basis.

Mobility Plus provides transit service to residents with special needs.

The addition will allow clients of Participation House (a project of the Cerebral Palsy Parent Council of Toronto) and members of the National Council of Jewish Women, one-ride access to adult education and physiotherapy programs, and seniors programming respectively in York Region.

A report will be forwarded to York Regional Council and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) in Fall 2006 with preliminary findings on the success of the one-year program.

York Region grants funds to Georgina Mobility Transit

York Regional Council has approved a grant of \$32,500 to Georgina Mobility Transit to help them provide transit service to residents in the Town of Georgina who do not have access to York Region Transit.

Georgina Mobility Transit provides a low cost transportation alternative to meet the community transit needs for persons who live in the rural areas of Georgina who do not have access to a conventional public transit service, or do not meet the eligibility requirements of York Region Transit's Mobility Plus specialized service.

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More residential lands required to keep pace with Province's new growth forecast

York Regional Council today received a staff report that confirms the current supply of housing lands across York Region will be sufficient for approximately the next 13 years. Council directed staff to circulate the "York Region Vacant Residential Unit Supply Inventory" to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, local municipal Councils and the Urban Development Institute.

This initiative is part of a comprehensive Growth Management Review being undertaken by the Regional Municipality of York to respond to the Province's increased population forecasts and provide input into a process to update the Regional Official Plan.

There is a medium to long-term supply concern for ground-related units. The report indicates there is a 12.2-year supply for single detached, a 10-year supply for semi-detached and a 12.8-year supply for row house units.

York Regional policy requires a minimum 10-year supply of land designated for housing; a three to seven-year supply of registered and draft approved lots; and an average of 8,000 housing units brought into production annually.

The Province's new population forecast anticipates 10,150 new housing units will be required annually over the next 10 years.

Future work includes the establishment of a land budget exercise to determine how much land will be required to accommodate the future population and employment growth. Regional Council directed staff to refine and update the vacant residential land inventory on a regular basis in collaboration and consultation with the local municipalities.

Proposed Bill 51 - The Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005

York Regional Council received a staff report advising members of the changes proposed through Ontario's *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005*. The report contained comments that Council authorized staff to convey to the Province in accordance with the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) deadline of February 26, 2006.

The intent of Bill 51 is to modify aspects of the *Planning Act* and other ancillary Acts to provide additional tools to implement Provincial policies and on-going initiatives such as the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Ontario Municipal Board Reforms, and provide further support to sustainable development, intensification and brownfields redevelopment.

York Regional Council expressed support for the Province's continuing efforts to provide municipal tools to support Provincial initiatives, and at the same time, agreed to request modifications to provisions including tools and process changes that are needed to facilitate implementation of Provincial and Regional initiatives.

Regional Council directed staff to forward the report to the Region's area municipalities and to adjacent Regions, for their information.

York Regional Council Highlights

York Region releases the 2006 YorkLink Directory

Regional Council today released the 2006 edition of *YorkLink: A Community Services Directory* that provides comprehensive information on over 700 community service providers and related government agencies in York Region.

The 2006 edition of *YorkLink* contains an expanded index. For the online version, the keyword search function has also been improved to make it broader. Community services are now quicker and easier to find.

YorkLink is available online through the York Region Web site at www.york.ca

A printed copy is available free of charge by calling (905) 830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 2151, or by emailing yorklink@york.ca. In addition, the *YorkLink Directory* is now available in an accessible .pdf format for people with visual disabilities.

Next meeting of York Regional Council

Thursday, March 23rd, at 9:30 a.m.
In the Council Chambers of the York Region Administrative Centre

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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 Web site at www.york.ca under Regional Government.