



# York Regional Council Highlights

December 16, 2004

## York Region wins Community Export Development Award

The Community Export Development Award from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and a certificate of recognition from Premier Dalton McGuinty were presented to the Regional Municipality of York today at York Regional Council.

The Region was nominated by TD Commercial Banking in recognition of the Region's Export Development Initiative which helps small and medium-sized regional companies achieve success in the export marketplace.

Through this program, the Region supports two Export Advisors and delivers export awareness workshops and seminars. In 2004, a series of Global Market Diversification seminars were organized focusing on the markets of Europe, Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Latin America.

## Draft Economic Development Strategy

Regional Council received a draft Economic Development Strategy from the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

The strategy is an assessment of the current state of York Region's economy and proposes a framework to develop partnerships with local municipalities, businesses and other stakeholders to undertake actions that address the continued economic competitiveness of York Region.

The draft Economic Strategy sets out five strategic directions:

- Creating an environment to share information and ideas
- Sustaining a high quality workforce
- Strengthening entrepreneurship and industry clusters
- Promoting York Region
- Encouraging the efficient movement of goods and people

The draft Economic Strategy will be distributed for comment to Regional and local municipalities; Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade; the Government of Canada; the Government of Ontario; business owners, managers and executives as well as other interested stakeholders.

The final draft will come back to Regional Council for approval in spring 2005.

## The Economy of York Region

Regional Council received a report on the economy of York Region from the Planning and Economic Development Committee. The report is a research study on York Region's economy that was undertaken as part of the Economic Development Strategy development process.

The Economy of York Region provides an estimate of the size of the Region's economy and an assessment of



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the scale and diversity of the business structure of the Region.

As York Region's economy continues to grow, diversify and attract a broader range of occupations, more integrated approaches between economic development, housing, and employment will be needed to meet the demands of York Region's labour force.

The draft Economic Development Strategy supports and builds on the information identified in the earlier Housing and our Economy Remaining Competitive report. For detailed information about York Region's economy, please see [The Economy of York Region](#)

## 2005 Tourism Marketing Plan

Regional Council received the 2005 Tourism Marketing Plan from the Planning and Economic Development Committee. The plan was adopted in principle subject to the approval of the 2005 Economic Development operating budget.

Regional Council authorized the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk to execute any necessary agreements with Human Resources Development Canada, Tourism Toronto and other industry partners to acquire funding assistance to support the tourism program.

## ROPA 43 – Regional Centres and Corridors

York Regional Council adopted Section 17(22) of the Planning Act to approve Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) No. 43.

The purpose of ROPA 43 is to advance the city-building model of development based on a network of Regional Centres and Regional Corridors, served by rapid transit. The low density, suburban-type development form, dominant since the 1950s, is no longer sustainable from economic, environmental or social perspectives. The long-term sustainability of York Region's urban structure requires a diverse, mixed-use development form that is compact, transit-supportive, pedestrian-friendly and well designed.

Focusing growth and infrastructure investment in centres and corridors has been a key goal of the Regional Official Plan since its adoption in 1994. This approach represents good planning and is central to the Region's Growth Management Strategy. For more information, please see [ROPA 43](#).

Regional Council also directed the Regional Clerk to circulate this report to the area municipalities, the Regions of Durham and Peel, the City of Toronto and the provincial Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Public Infrastructure Renewal.

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## Bill 136 – Places to Grow Act, 2004

Regional Council approved a set of recommendations to form the basis of the Region's response to the Province on *Bill 136 Places to Grow Act, 2004* to be sent to the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Renewal. Council also authorized the Regional Clerk to circulate this report to the local municipalities for information.

The proposed *Places to Grow Act, 2004*, along with the Places to Grow Discussion Paper, are critical elements in the Province's overall policy for municipal planning and infrastructure in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Along with the Provincial government's ongoing Planning Reform, review of the Provincial Policy Statement and the proposed *Greenbelt Act* and Greenbelt Plan, Places to Grow represents the most significant statement of Provincial planning policy since the Toronto Centred Region Plan of 1970.

Reversing over a decade of a diminishing Provincial role in GTA urban affairs, Places to Grow illustrates the Province's recognition of the need to take a leadership and visionary role in the current and future development of Canada's most important economic engine.

York Region is well positioned to implement Places to Grow from a policy perspective as the Provincial document and this proposed legislation builds upon the Region's existing key strategic growth management directions, including the Regional Official Plan, York Rapid Transit Plan, the Greening Strategy and the Housing Supply Strategy.

Places to Grow also directly supports the Region's Centres and Corridors Strategy – Making it Happen! and proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment 43- Centres and Corridors. For more information, please see [Bill 136 – Places to Grow Act, 2004](#).

## Bill 135 – Greenbelt Act, 2004 and the Greenbelt Draft Plan

Regional Council commended the Province for its commitment to Growth Management and environmental protection in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, through Greenbelt Planning and Growth Management initiatives.

Council also endorsed a set of recommendations on Bill 135 - Greenbelt Act, 2004 and the Greenbelt Draft Plan to be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and his staff in accordance with the requirements of postings under the Bill of Rights, and to be circulated to area municipalities and stakeholders in York Region.

## Report on the draft Inclusivity Action Plan

Regional Council received a report on the draft Inclusivity Action Plan from the Planning and Economic Development Committee. The report provides an update on the Human Services Planning Coalition's (HSPC) planning to help make York Region an ethno-culturally inclusive community.

York Region has received between 40,000 to 60,000 immigrants in each five-year period for the past 40 years, including 43,405 in the 1996-2001 census periods. In 2001, the proportion of immigrants in York Region was 39.1%, a higher proportion than the 905 regional averages of 34.3%. Within the GTA, the City of Toronto,

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followed by Peel Region, had the highest proportion of immigrants at 49.4% and 43.1%, respectively.

This rapid growth in immigration brings assets in terms of skilled professionals, cultural diversity and economic prosperity. However, it also challenges human service providers in responding to the needs of immigrants and in making York Region inclusive for all ethno-cultural groups. For more information, please see the report on the [Inclusivity Action Plan](#)

## **Resolution seeks a full Environmental Assessment on proposed hydro corridor**

Regional Council passed a recommendation requesting Hydro One and the Ministry of Environment to ensure that a full and proper Environmental Assessment (EA) be carried out and that the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) process be terminated.

Regional Council agreed that Hydro One has not addressed serious concerns regarding its proposal to convert an existing 100 kilovolt transmission line into a 230 kilovolt transmission corridor; and that York Region is entitled to ensure new infrastructure developments are appropriate and conform with the Region's existing environment and communities.

Regional Council recognizes additional electricity must be obtained from Hydro One as early as 2006 for York Region to continue to receive a consistent and reliable supply. According to the local distribution companies, load forecast information indicates York Region, north of Bloomington Road, is at risk of service disruptions or brown outs unless there is a re-enforcement of transmissions facilities by 2006 to 2007. The legislated and regulatory authority for provision of electricity to York Region consumers rests with Hydro One and the local distribution companies.

In June, Regional Council communicated its fundamental concerns with Hydro One's approach and requested Hydro One to ensure there was a full consideration of alternative routes based on a full assessment of environmental, social, economic and health impacts of such facilities.

In recognition of residents' concerns, Council authorized the Regional Chair to write to the federal Minister of Health to request a review into the issue and impacts of exposure to electro-magnetic fields (EMFs).

Regional Council also expressed support for the Town of Newmarket and Newmarket Hydro's initiative to develop local hydro generation through a proposed 300-megawatt gas-fired facility as a solution to meet additional electricity demands.

And Council expressed support for the Town of Markham's request to the Ministers of Energy and Environment for mediation to resolve the issues.



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## Ontario Works Program Consolidated Verification Process Program Report

Regional Council received a Ontario Works Program Consolidated Verification Process Program (CVP) Report from the Community Services and Housing Development Committee.

The CVP is a case monitoring activity performed by staff to comprehensively assess ongoing eligibility for financial assistance under the Ontario Works Act and ensure that those who are eligible are receiving the correct amount of assistance.

This includes increasing levels of assistance if an individual or a family are not receiving all they are entitled to or reducing or terminating assistance if a person is receiving too much or is found to be no longer eligible. The province assigns baseline targets for each service delivery agent based on the number of cases on assistance for 12 months or longer to ensure ongoing program efficiency. For York Region, the baseline target was approximately 3% of caseload to be reviewed on a monthly basis. Any additional cases reviewed above the provincial baseline target results in CVP bonus incentive funding to a maximum established limit. For more information, please see [the report](#).

## EMS Service Awards

Regional Council expressed its gratitude and appreciation to York Region EMS staff who received Ontario EMS Service Awards as follows: the Rand McNally Award of Bravery to Ian Phythian, Primary Care Paramedic, Shawn McLeish, Advanced Care Paramedic and Mark Hinton, Advanced Care Paramedic; the AMEMSO Award of Innovation to Sandra Norris, Manager, Continuous Quality Improvement; and the EMS Television Series of the Year Award to Dave Grant, Manager, Education and Training. For details, please see [York Region EMS staff who received Ontario EMS Service Awards](#).

## Other Jurisdictional EMS Request for Proposal Information

Regional Council approved in principle a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a consultant to conduct an internal review of York Region EMS and identify potential internal efficiencies; and report the conditions under which it would be reasonable to accept ambulance dispatch, subject to the 2005 budget approval process.

A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for information. See [Other Jurisdictional EMS RFP Information](#).

## Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

Regional Council received a report from the Commissioner of Health Services regarding the recently announced provincial health initiative involving the establishment of Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), and their impact on the York Region Health Services Department.

Regional Council authorized the Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health to:

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- Monitor the Province of Ontario's health transformation agenda and provide updates to Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council as more information becomes available.
- Request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) revisit the LHIN boundaries as they currently exist to ensure that York Region is within one LHIN area, thereby still accommodating the MOHLTC requirements that at least one major hospital and up to 1.5 million residents reside within each LHIN.
- Request that MOHLTC restructure the LHIN model of governance in order to ensure that LHIN Boards are accountable to the residents of York Region.
- Request that MOHLTC undertake an intensive consultation process with representatives from the Regional Municipality of York, other Regions and municipalities across Ontario, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario with respect to the development of LHINs.
- Request that MOHLTC place a strong emphasis on illness prevention as a key component to any transformation of health care in Ontario.
- Request that MOHLTC take local service delivery initiatives into consideration as a key component to any transformation of health care in Ontario.
- Request that MOHLTC provide clarification to The Regional Municipality of York regarding the role of the York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with the LHINs.
- Forward Council's report to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for response, copied to Mr. Hugh MacLeod, Assistant Deputy Minister of Acute Services Division and Executive Lead of the Health Results Team and all local MPPs.
- Forward Council's report to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Markham Stouffville Hospital, the Southlake Regional Health Centre and York Central Hospital for their information.

For more information, please see [Report No. 1 of the Commissioner of Health Services](#).

## **York Region presents cheque to York Central Hospital for water savings**

York Regional Council today presented a cheque for over \$47,000 to Richmond Hill's York Central Hospital for its participation in the York Region Water for Tomorrow Industrial/Institutional water capacity buy-back program.

The buy-back program began in January 2004 as part of the Region's expanded Industrial/Institutional Water Usage Audit Program. It provides companies with an incentive to implement actual water savings highlighted by the audit by offering 40 cents per litre per day for costs incurred to implement water efficiency measures, to a maximum of 50 per cent.

To qualify for the incentive, York Central Hospital replaced 232 regular flush toilets with new ultra-low flush toilets, lowering water consumption by 112,000 litres of water per day. To supply the needed water to York Central Hospital would have cost the Region over \$200,000 in infrastructure costs. With the incentive program, the cost to the Region was less than one quarter this amount, with an additional savings to the hospital of \$55,000 per year in operating expenses.



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## **York Region transfers ownership of local sewer collection system to King Township**

To help support King Township's application for Federal/Provincial COMRIF (Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure) funding to cover a portion of their costs associated with the King City sewage collection system, York Regional Council today agreed to transfer ownership of the local collection system to the Township.

Application for COMRIF funding is available to all municipalities with a population of less than 250,000 residents, including lower tier municipalities in York Region. The program has \$298 million in funding available from both Federal and Provincial governments over five years. Regional municipalities are not eligible to apply for funding.

At its meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>, King Township formally asked the Region for its support in a COMRIF application by transferring ownership of the local collection system.

The King City Sanitary Servicing project will provide sewer capacity to residents and businesses in King City by connecting to the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS). Work is currently underway of the first phase of construction.

## **York Region municipalities to implement three-stream collection**

York Regional Council has advised its area municipalities to implement three-stream collection (which includes garbage, Blue Box recyclables and Source Separated Organics (SSO) collection) by 2006, or by the renewal date of their collection contracts.

The Town of Markham has already implemented SSO collection with its Project Green campaign in September.

The addition of SSO collection will significantly reduce the amount of garbage going to landfills.

## **Wastewater Projects progressing on 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

York Region has amended a contract with Gartner Lee Ltd. to independently monitor the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for work on the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Wastewater project. The work entails a proactive well mitigation program identifying potential de-watering impacts for local residents, and the controlled dispersal of discharged water from the de-watering process.

As part of the well mitigation process, the Region will also contribute up to \$1.65 million to the Town of Markham for the Cachet Estates Municipal Water System Project.

The Region has also retained Earth Tech Canada to carry out an alternative route assessment, natural environment assessment, review of construction methodologies and detailed design and preparation of contract documents for the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Interceptor Lower Leslie Truck Sewer Project as directed by the Minister of Environment. It has also retained Ogilvie, Ogilvie & Company to act as facilitator for public consultation and stakeholder relationship management on the project.



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## **York Region Energy Program saves \$251,000 in 2004**

The Regional Municipality of York's Energy Management Program has achieved \$251,000 in net savings in 2004 and is projected to save another \$487,000 next year.

In 2004, the Region completed Building Energy Feasibility Studies (BEFS) that target aggressive energy and water savings in Regional facilities on more than 1.1 million sq. ft. of the Region's building portfolio. In addition, the studies led to the creation of an in-house Energy and Environment Management System (EEMS) – a Web-based software that captures energy consumption and expenses of buildings, street lights, transportation and other facilities.

## **Deputy Clerk hired**

The Regional Municipality of York is pleased to announce that Jeffrey Abrams has been hired to the position of Deputy Clerk. Mr. Abrams brings a wealth of experience to the job, including a legal background and years of work in the public sector at the City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario.

Mr. Abrams succeeds Harold Brown, who retired from the position last year after a long and distinguished career. Mr. Brown continued with the Region on a part-time basis until the position was filled.

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The contents of this summary are intended to be 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](http://www.york.ca) under Regional Council.