



*Planning for Tomorrow*  
York Region Growth Management

# Towards a Sustainable Region

**York Region Open House – Feedback**  
**May 10, 2007**  
**East Gwillimbury**

The following comments, questions and suggestions are a summary of public input at the consultation session in the Town of East Gwillimbury. Regional Staff attempted to answer questions and provide additional input. Please contact the Region if this summary does not adequately reflect your input or ideas or if you have additional thoughts.



# Discussion



- Issues around future Quality of life, air quality, have concerns with high rate of growth. We already have worse air quality than areas like Hamilton.
- The proposed Regional incineration facility in East Gwillimbury will add to poor air quality.



# Discussion



- Need to focus funds on education, conservation, reduce, reuse recycle versus investing in new incineration and land fill facilities.
- We do have existing facilities that deal with waste separation successfully – recycling, etc. at Bales Road.



# Discussion



- If York Region reaches a 60% diversion rate, we only have 50 tons of residual waste because of existing agreements, which is not enough to run an incineration facility effectively, will have to bring in waste from other areas.
- Urban sprawl is a result of cheap housing, and farmers who don't have to pay speculation taxes, pressure put on planners and then on taxpayers to connect sprawl with the rest of our community.



# Discussion



- Taxpayers are subsidizing sprawl.
- Need demand management approach to land supply.
- Encourage the Region to undertake financial assessment of the cost of sprawl over a 25 year planning horizon.



# Discussion



- This will help create cost benefit analysis for each subdivision approved, which will show that green sprawl is too costly, but infill is more cost effective.
- Encourage the Region to increase development charges which will help to make sprawl too costly, and will increase benefit to taxpayers for infill housing.
- Bradford by-pass is not a good idea, nor are the proposed employment lands adjacent to it.
- Take these project off the maps, which will reduce sprawl.



# Discussion



- Bradford By-Pass area is within Native burial grounds, we do not want another Caledonia.
- The Region has an extensive consultation process with our first Nations Communities.
- Housing prices are pricing people into different housing choices.



# Discussion



- Managing growth effectively will require compromise. It's not reasonable to expect zero growth.
- If we don't have the job creation along with affordable housing, our residents will be commuting long distances for employment.
- We need to carefully balance employment with growth, can't just attract "jobs", that aren't matched with our residents' skills.
- Need high quality jobs.



# Discussion



- 70% of jobs are in the service/retail sector, don't really have a good cluster based employment base.
- Wonder about decisions we are making on the environment that will effect our children's future.
- The research on incineration indicates the toxic ash isn't something our future generations want – the health impacts are significant.
- We need to tread very carefully in the decisions we make.



# Discussion



- We need to make decisions that are better in the long term.
- The air quality from European incinerators is different, they are burning different types of garbage than we will be.
- Please continue this dialogue for our children's sake, we have that responsibility.



# Discussion



- Don't see as many places for children to play around the Region.
- There is no affordable housing in the Region for younger people.
- Senior's need apartments with one level, bungalows take up a lot of space.
- Toronto is trying to stop residential and job growth in 905 so they can retain jobs, development charges etc.
- If we don't have Bradford By-Pass, gridlock will only increase, making getting to work difficult.



# Discussion



- Big box stores take up so much space including huge parking spaces, why can't we have apartments in these spaces, above box stores, and make the best use of these spaces.
- Focus on high rises to save our countryside, make better use of the land.



# Discussion



- What is the thinking about the types of jobs we're trying to attract.
- Gas emissions, incinerators and sustainability – never expected that such plans would be considered in the northern area of the Region in a greenbelt area.
- The Region needs to better integrate its planning for infrastructure, land use, job growth, etc.



# Discussion



- We are forgetting the ability to create energy through biodiesel in the agricultural community/industry.
- We need to deal with greenbelt skip to Simcoe County and the people driving through the Region – are we dealing with this through infrastructure planning?



# Discussion



- It is difficult to engage people in the civic planning process, hats off to the Region for bringing this process forward.
- Realize that this program began with with the Province's plan, and quite proud of the Region and East Gwillimbury's Council work on this.
- What will happen with a change in government?
- These issues are long lasting, people from all over the globe want to live in this Region because it is so attractive and has a good quality of life. Any government will have to deal with this issue.



# Discussion



- 100 mile diet concept – local food, how will we keep farmers in this growing region, in the Greenbelt. Durham Region has an economic development officer devoted to the agricultural community. We need more help like this in York Region.
- The Greenbelt is right now dealing more with traffic and tractors.
- We need to find better ways to celebrate our farm community.



# Discussion



- Because York Region has been quite commodity based, need to address how we deal more with a food based industry in the Region.
- Concerned with dramatic decline in postal service to rural residents, have to travel long distance to pick up mail.

