



# York Regional Council Highlights



Meeting held on  
Thursday, December 13, 2007



The Regional Municipality of York

## **York Regional Council approves Capital Plan for The Regional Municipality of York**

York Regional Council approved a \$682 million Capital Plan as part of The Regional Municipality of York's 2008 Business Plan and Budget.

The Capital Plan will enhance services for York Region residents and businesses in areas including: York Regional Police, transit (YRT and Viva), water and wastewater, Regional roads, solid waste management and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Some of the priorities identified in the 2008 Capital Plan include:

- \$103.9 million for Viva Rapid Transit, advancing construction of bus rapid transit lanes on Yonge Street and Highway 7 and construction of the TTC Spadina Subway
- \$282.1 million for wastewater projects, including expansion of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant
- \$73.3 million for water projects, including cost-shared works with the City of Toronto to provide 470 ML/day of water and staged expansion of the Peel water supply into York Region
- \$101.7 million for roads, including 66 new lane kilometres of roadway and resurfacing another 37 lane kilometres
- \$11.4 million for solid waste management projects, including upgrades to the Garfield Wright Waste Management facility in the Town of East Gwillimbury
- \$5.6 million for a York Regional Police Investigative and Support Services Facility in the Town of Aurora
- \$4.7 million for an 85-unit seniors' residence as part of the new Vaughan Civic Centre campus
- \$4.4 million for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including the purchase of 10 replacement ambulances and construction of an EMS facility in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- \$ 3.6 million for Highway 427 interim arterial extension work

The proposed *2008 Operating Plan* will be tabled at York Regional Council in the new year with Regional Council approval expected in April 2008.

The 2008 Regional tax levy increase will be determined once the 2008 Operating Plan is approved and factored together with the 2008 Capital Budget.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **The Regional Municipality of York hires two new commissioners**

*Commissioners of new Transportation Services and Environmental Services departments*

York Regional Council confirmed the hiring of Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas as Commissioner of the Region's Transportation Services department and Erin Mahoney as Commissioner of Environmental Services department. Both positions are effective January 21, 2008.

### **Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P. Eng**

Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas joins the Region after an exemplary career at the City of Toronto, where she most recently served as Director of Affordable Housing Development in the Deputy City Manager's Office. Kathleen has an extensive background in infrastructure and transportation planning, engineering design, municipal management and public housing.

Kathleen is a professional engineer with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Civil Engineering from Queen's University.

### **Erin Mahoney, B. Sc, M. Eng**

Erin Mahoney joins the Region after a distinguished career with an internationally-recognized environmental engineering services company, where she most recently served as Vice President of National Environmental Business. Erin has an extensive background in private sector management, business operations and consulting in the field of environmental engineering.

Erin holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Western Ontario.

The hiring of two new Commissioners follows a recommendation to Regional Council to split the duties of the former Transportation and Works department into two separate departments. Transportation Services is responsible for Roads and Transit, while Environmental Services is responsible for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Management.

## **The Regional Municipality of York receives National Purchasing Institute award**

The Regional Municipality of York has been awarded the National Purchasing Institute's *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award* for 2007.

York Region received the award from the United States-based institute in recognition of our demonstrated excellence, innovation, professionalism, productivity and leadership in public procurement procedures and practices.

The Region is one of only two Canadian organizations to receive the accolade.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **The Regional Municipality of York releases 2006 Annual Energy Report**

York Regional Council received the 2006 Annual energy report, highlighting progress on The Regional Municipality of York's Energy Management Program.

The Energy Management Program's primary focus is to incorporate sustainable measures and identify cost-cutting initiatives across Regional buildings and operations. The program comprises:

- Sustainable Buildings (High Performance Retrofits/Design, LEED Certification, Renewable Energy)
- Energy Data Management (Energy monitoring and metering)
- Energy Supply Management (Procurement Strategy, Supply /Demand Optimization)
- Energy Use (Benchmarking, Audits, Demand Response)
- Reporting under the 2006 Energy Conservation Leadership Act (Emissions Accounting, Energy Awareness)
- Organizational Integration (Strategic Energy Plan)

The Energy Management Program savings in 2006 are \$401,688. The projected savings for 2007 are \$665,029.

2006 highlights include:

- A joint Fire / EMS station in partnership with the City of Vaughan, and awarded LEED Gold certification by the Canada Green Building Council
- Review and implementation of LEED standards in the Tom Taylor Place, Town of Newmarket, currently in construction stage and will be the Region's first LEED certified multi-unit residential facility
- Energy retrofit of existing York Region Administrative Centre
- Wind Energy Pre-Feasibility Study in the Town of Georgina identified Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant
- Purchasing green power for the Administrative Centre in the Town of Newmarket
- Implementation of energy software that measures the energy and environmental performance of municipal operations

## **2008 Waste Transfer Station User Fee Changes**

York Regional Council approved changes to the 2008 waste transfer station user fees to reflect increases in program delivery costs.

York Region costs will increase in 2008 as new waste management options become available, such as the Dongara pelletization plant and the proposed Community Environmental Centre in the City of Vaughan.

The Region provides free disposal for all waste material collected in municipal residential curbside programs and produced by municipal operations.

York Region will continue to receive blue box material from all sources at no charge to encourage diversion.

For complete 2008 waste transfer station user fee information, please visit the 'Public Drop-off Depot' section at [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste)

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **York Region applies important lessons learned from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) experience**

The Regional Municipality of York Public Health branch has taken lessons learned during the tragic outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 to strengthen emergency preparedness practices.

The 2003 SARS outbreak in Ontario infected 375 people, including 169 health care workers, and killed 44 people. As the second largest epicentre for SARS in North America, York Region reported 88 cases of SARS, including eight deaths.

Following the SARS outbreak, feedback was obtained on the impact and the perceived level of emergency preparedness in the event of another infectious disease outbreak. Information was collected through employee surveys, panel discussions and various debriefing exercises. All York Region Public Health staff now participate in a mandatory five-year cycle of emergency preparedness training.

Additional York Region Public Health emergency preparedness measures implemented include:

- Additional staff hired to provide enhanced monitoring and reporting of health statistics and infectious disease patterns within York Region
- Public Health staff deployed to assist with the launch of new emergency preparedness programs and initiatives, including the Infectious Diseases Surveillance Unit and the Regional Infection Control Network
- Partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada to participate in a pilot project monitoring over-the-counter selling trends of gastrointestinal and respiratory products
- Help implement the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) initiative to create 14 Regional Infection Control Networks across the province
- Implementing of the provincially-mandated Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), allowing all provincial data to be stored on a centrally-shared system and providing enhanced communication between health units and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

## **Long Term Care Funding Increase for Alternative Community Living Program**

York Regional Council approved receipt of an \$88,000 subsidy from the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for the expansion of the Alternative Community Living Supportive Housing Program.

The Alternative Community Living Program provides personal support services and essential homemaking 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to clients in designated supportive housing apartments.

There are six Alternative Community Living Program sites located throughout York Region. The approved subsidy from the Central LHIN will enable York Region to add an additional 3,000 hours of service at the Keswick Alternative Community Living Program site to meet urgent client needs.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **York Region raises \$202,000 for the United Way**

The Regional Municipality of York and York Regional Police Services raised \$202,000 for United Way of York Region in 2007, surpassing our fundraising goal by \$62,000.

In 2006, York Region employees raised \$120,000.

Some of the campaign highlights included an employee payroll donation program, a softball tournament, an Annual Craft and Gift sale and numerous employee-driven fundraising challenges.

The United Way of York Region is the largest source of non-profit funding in York Region. Each year, this foundation assists more than 270,000 people overcome difficulties through the support of more than 40 community programs.

## **York Regional Council commends Lake Simcoe partnership**

York Regional Council commended the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) partnership for significant achievements over the past seven years. The Regional Municipality of York is an active participant in efforts to improve water quality in Lake Simcoe, both as a partner and a funder.

The health of Lake Simcoe has been a subject of concern for many years. LSEMS was launched in 1990 to begin work to improve the health of the native coldwater fish. During 17 years of operation, the LSEMS program has made steady progress. Successes include:

- A reduction in the amount of phosphorus emptying into the lake each year
- An increase in levels of dissolved oxygen in the lake's deep water zones
- The survival of a small number of naturally-produced wild lake trout

Since 2000, LSEMS Phase III, combined with natural factors, resulted in reduction of phosphorus loads to approximately 62 metric tonnes per year. However, this remains well below the LSEMS target of 75 metric tonnes per year.

York Regional Council will advise the province of its support for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority as the lead and coordinating body for the next project phase, subject to refinement to the current governance structure, including:

- Additional representation from the public and industry on the LSEMS Executive Committee, Steering Committee and required Technical and Working Committees
- Increased and stable long term funding from multiple sources
- Dedicated administrative and technical staff within the Conservation Authority to support a stronger LSEMS partnership

York Regional Council rejected an option calling for the formation of a new entity, separate and distinct from the Conservation Authority, to undertake LSEMS in Phase IV. There is concern that an additional group may result in a costly, confusing and duplicative system.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **York Regional Council endorses workplan to develop new standards for future communities**

York Regional Council endorsed a workplan to develop a New Communities Strategy to guide the development of future communities in The Regional Municipality of York.

The workplan requests a symposium and charrette (public feedback/working session) to be held in 2008 for stakeholders to consider ideas and options outlined in a white paper entitled, *Best Practices for New Communities Discussion Paper*.

Intended to stimulate discussion on fresh approaches to develop new communities, the paper provides 42 best practices, representing some successful examples in sustainable community development.

To view a copy, click on the "Planning for Tomorrow" icon on York Region's home page at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) and then choose "Reports & Presentations." To submit online feedback, click on "Contact Us" or email your comments or questions to [futureyork@york.ca](mailto:futureyork@york.ca)

## **The Regional Municipality of York to partner with the City of Vaughan to access Canada-Ontario funding and develop affordable rental housing**

The Regional Municipality of York will enter into a 99-year lease with the City of Vaughan to develop a new affordable housing apartment building in the City of Vaughan. Located on the Vaughan Civic Centre campus at Major Mackenzie Drive and Keele Street, the building will provide 84 apartments for low and moderate income residents of York Region.

The Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program has committed almost \$6 million to the project's estimated cost of \$19 million. York Region is responsible for the construction of the project and will operate the building through Housing York Inc., York Region's non-profit housing corporation. The City of Vaughan contributed 0.8 hectares (two acres) of land under a 99-year lease at no cost to the project.

The building will offer a mix of rent-geared-to-income and market rent units primarily for seniors. The four-storey building will include 65 one-bedroom units, 14 two-bedroom units and five units designed with enhanced accessibility features to accommodate people with physical disabilities.

The design and construction of this new building will achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. The updated energy efficiency features incorporated throughout the building will support the Region's Sustainability Strategy and benefit both the environment and residents.

Construction will start in the fall of 2008 and people will move into the building in early 2010.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **York Regional Council approves recommendations to address speeding and safety concerns on Highway 9**

*Initiative follows concerns raised by King Township and local businesses*

The Regional Municipality of York will implement new measures along Highway 9 between Highway 400 and Yonge Street to help improve traffic safety and reduce traffic speeds. The move follows an operational review conducted by the Region in October.

To manage traffic volumes travelling at high speeds along Highway 9, York Regional Council approved:

- Regular use of York Regional Police patrols on the roadway, including monitoring by aircraft
- The use of speed indicator signs to inform drivers of their speeds
- Increased signage, indicating penalties for speeding
- Re-naming Highway 9 to Davis Drive West to reflect this is not a provincial roadway

The operational review was conducted following a request by the Township of King and businesses along the Highway 9 corridor.

The Region's operational review revealed that after Highway 9 was reconstructed in 2000, injuries, fatalities and property damage have all been reduced. However, the review also found that:

- Average daily traffic volumes have increased from 25,000 vehicles per day to approximately 40,000 vehicles per day
- Despite a posted limit of 80 km/h, the average operating speed of vehicles is 100 km/h
- Many motorists travelled the roadway in excess of 120 km/h

Transportation and Works staff will begin implementing the recommendations immediately. Staff will also make further recommendations for operational improvements to the roadway in February 2008 to the Region's Transportation and Works Committee.

# York Regional Council Highlights

## **The Regional Municipality of York initiates Intelligent Transportation System Strategic plan** *Traffic monitoring technology to help ease traffic congestion on Regional roads*

York Regional Council adopted an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Strategic Plan to assist the Region's Roads Transportation staff to better monitor traffic conditions, help manage traffic flow and traffic congestion, plus send information to commuters.

York Region has been using ITS technology for several years, including the use of:

- Traffic response control signals that change signal timing based on pre-determined traffic flow information and conditions
- A transit signal priority system that automatically changes traffic signal timing to help Viva Rapid Transit vehicles travel through intersections more quickly
- Adaptive signal controls that analyze traffic patterns and optimize signal timing to change with the flow of traffic

Until now, all ITS initiatives were single projects implemented following a successful pilot process. With a coordinated strategy, the Region will expand on our existing technology uses to include:

- Traveller information updated frequently and available to residents via phone or Internet
- Expansion of the real-time traffic information to include message signs and weather information systems
- Integration of transit camera information to update traffic conditions
- Integration of traffic information systems to assist with police, fire and EMS emergency response

The new ITS Strategic Plan will be implemented over the next 10 years.

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The next Regional Council meeting will be held Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.  
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 website at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) under Regional Government.