



Thursday, June 26, 2014

York Regional Council – June 26, 2014

Council thanks Jim Davidson, Commissioner of Corporate Services, for 15 years of services

On behalf of York Regional Council, Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch thanked outgoing Commissioner of Corporate Services Jim Davidson for his 15 years of service.

Under Mr. Davidson's leadership, numerous new Corporate and Human Resources systems were introduced including assisting York Region in becoming a "Top Employer" in the GTA and championing the Human Capital Plan that will shape York Region's workforce for years to come.

Thanks to his work, York Region is a leader in Human Resources service initiatives.

Belinda's Place reaches \$1M fundraiser mark

York Regional Council today received a cheque for \$1 million from Belinda's Place Foundation President Debora Kelly. This cheque represents community donations to support the operating costs of York Region's first women's shelter in the Town of Newmarket.

Belinda's Place, a project of Housing York Inc., was originally conceptualized and approved by Regional Council in 2010.

Building features:

- Nine transitional apartments (including three accessible units) and 28 emergency beds
- 3 ½ storey building
- Common dining, kitchen, lounge and storage space
- Office, counselling and meeting space
- 24/7 on-site shelter support

Belinda's Place will give homeless single women not fleeing abuse the opportunity to gain stability and will help build a strong, vibrant community for all York Region residents. The foundation will continue to raise money for the shelter's endowment fund, which will provide enhanced programs and services at the shelter.

The shelter is scheduled to open in spring 2015.

Greater Toronto Airport Authority update

York Regional Council today received the annual update from the Greater Toronto Airport Authority.

Pearson International Airport employees 40,000 people. Of these employees, 3,500 reside in York Region, making it one of the Region's top employers. Pearson International's financial contribution amounts to \$35 billion, or six per cent of Ontario's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). By 2031, this is forecasted to grow to \$59 billion, or seven per cent of Ontario's GDP.

Clean Air Partnership recognizes York Regional Council for its efforts to develop and implement clean air and climate change mitigation actions

The Clean Air Partnership, secretariat for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Clean Air Council, today recognized York Regional Council for its contribution in forwarding the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the GTHA Clean Air Council Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change actions and targets.

The Clean Air Council (a network of municipalities and health units from across the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area) was established in 2001 to work collaboratively on the development and implementation of clean air and climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

York University selects Town of Markham as preferred site for university campus

Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch today congratulated the City of Markham on being chosen as York University's preferred site for a satellite campus.

Six York Region municipalities, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Newmarket/Aurora, King and East Gwillimbury, expressed an interest in hosting campus. Chairman Fisch acknowledged the work undertaken by these municipalities and noted the calibre of the submissions. He noted that regardless of the campus location, a post-secondary institution will benefit all residents and the Region looks forward to the next steps in the process.

2013 Annual Report highlights delivery of quality programs and services to York Region residents and businesses

The Regional Municipality of York today released its 2013 Annual Report, highlighting the Region's program and service delivery achievements.

The 72-page report highlights Committee and Council accomplishments from 2013 and contains financial statements, an auditor's report, a statistical review and a report from the Region's Treasurer. The 2013 document includes an economic profile featuring notable York Region accomplishments in economic development.

Highlights from York Regional Police, York Regional Police Services Board and the Rapid Transit Board are included in the report. Housing York Inc.'s 2013 Annual Report is included as an accompanying document.

The report will be available on York Region's website at www.york.ca/annualreports

Regional Council continues Committee of the Whole structure

York Regional Council today endorsed the continuation of the Committee of the Whole structure, which has been piloted successfully for 20 meetings over the past 10 months.

Continuing with a Committee of the Whole structure allows all members of Council to more easily attend meetings and stay apprised of deputations, communications, presentations and reports. It allows members of the public to address all members in one forum.

2013 York Regional Police Annual Report

York Regional Council today received a report on the 2013 York Regional Police Annual Report, detailing accomplishments of the past year. The report includes a summary of high-profile investigations, information on community engagement and crime prevention programs, a feature on women in policing, organizational and individual awards, statistical reporting and the 2011 to 2013 Business Plan accomplishments.

2015 multi-year budget seeks February 2015 approval

In 2013, York Regional Council initiated the implementation of multi-year budgets. Staff have started initial work on the 2015 budget, with the intent of creating an operating budget spanning the full term of the next Council cycle.

A multi-year budget offers several advantages:

- Better co-ordination of budgeting and strategic priorities
- Greater certainty for departments in managing expenditures
- Ensures long-term financial commitment

The 2015 budget will be tabled at Regional Council in January and reviewed at Committee of the Whole in February.

Regional Council approves conditional 2014 conservation funding

York Regional Council has approved conditional additional funding for the Conservation Authorities' 2014 budgets. Included was the allocation of \$394,000 for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSCRA) for the purpose of funding:

- Administrative operations
- Scalon facilities operations
- Data security and management
- Scalon infrastructure capital

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has secured partner funding for the Scalon Infrastructure Capital Project and partial funding for the operating requests. York Region remains the largest contributor to the LSRCA.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is still seeking sufficient partner funding for the Kortright Municipal Servicing capital project in order to secure conditional funding through Regional Council approval.

The conservation authorities deliver programs and help York Region meet its service objectives for residents and businesses in York Region's local municipalities. Future costs associated with the conservation authorities' requests will require consideration in the 2015 budget process.

Integrated management system update for water, wastewater and waste management

York Regional Council today received the [2013 Integrated Management System Update](#) for Water, Wastewater and Waste Management. The system provides guidance for staff to lessen risk, comply with regulations, monitor regulatory compliance and continuously improve programs and processes that are used to deliver water, wastewater, waste management and forestry services.

Performance and enhancements to the integrated management system supports Council in meeting Standard of Care requirements under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* for York Region's drinking water systems.

York Region's Sewer Use Bylaw Enforcement Program Update

York Regional Council today approved changes to the Sewer Use Bylaw which include an increase in program fees for a three-year period. This bylaw is in place primarily to manage risks and costs associated with treating discharges of industrial, commercial and institutional wastewater into sanitary collection systems. Fee increases related to the Sewer Use Bylaw Enforcement Program are necessary to offset operational and treatment costs.

A plan has been developed to provide reasonable notice of fee changes – letters of notice will be sent to each sector to outline proposed fees, provide suggestions to reduce their costs and offer opportunities for discussions with staff.

New Sewer Use Bylaw fees will take effect January 1, 2015.

Municipal Funding Agreement authorizes the transfer of federal gas tax revenues

York Regional Council authorized the Municipal Funding Agreement for the transfer of federal gas tax revenues.

In 2008, the federal government committed to making the Federal Gas Tax Fund permanent beyond 2014 and the funding is protected in federal legislation for the next 10 years. With the implementation of the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Region will be eligible to receive the transfer of federal gas tax revenues.

York Region will receive \$29.8 million for 2014, and a further \$125.4 million to November 2018 (for a total of \$155.2 million), upon the implementation of the Municipal Funding Agreement and related schedules. Local municipalities will also receive a Federal Gas Tax Fund and be able to apply these revenues to their respective projects through a similar process.

Under the new agreement, eligible categories will increase from seven to 18 and include highways, local and regional airports, short-line rail, short-sea shipping, disaster mitigation, broadband and connectivity, brownfield redevelopment, culture, tourism, sport and recreation

Consultant Selection for Professional Forestry Services

York Regional Council today approved a contract award to Silv-Econ Limited for [professional forestry services](#). Silv-Econ Limited will assist in the implementation of a wide variety of forestry programs involving the natural environment, including:

- Services of a registered professional forester, tree marker and arborist
- Street tree health assessments and monitoring
- Invasive species and forest pest monitoring and management

Management of the York Regional Forest and the urban forests provide recreational opportunities as well as aesthetic, health and environmental benefits to residents.

Review of Provinces performance indicators for the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

York Regional Council endorsed a report commenting on many of the proposed provincial *Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* performance indicators today. Enacted in 2006, the *Growth Plan* guides where and how growth should occur in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and ensures communities are planned and built to be sustainable and prosperous.

Provincial performance indicators are:

- Designed to measure outcomes
- Easily understood
- Based on credible data sources
- Can be repeated easily
- Manageable in scale, scope and cost

There are [12 indicators organized into four themes](#) that help to evaluate the outcome of the *Growth Plan* policies. These themes and indicators are consistent with a number of the York Region targets and policies including the [Strategic Plan](#) and [York Region Official Plan](#). York Region encourages the province to continue to work with municipalities, especially those working with similar monitoring systems, to continue identifying the most appropriate *Growth Plan* performance indicators. The Region also suggests the reporting program for the plan occur on a five-year cycle and results are available for each mandated *Growth Plan*.

York Regional Council approves final 10-Year Housing Plan

York Regional Council approved York Region's [10-Year Housing Plan Housing Solutions: A Place for Everyone](#), a guiding document for building healthy and complete communities in York Region.

Following Council's approval of the draft plan in October 2013, feedback was gathered and incorporated from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, housing and homelessness stakeholders and members of the public.

Over the next 10 years, York Region will continue to work towards increasing the rental housing supply, sustaining existing rental housing option, supporting home ownership affordability and strengthening the homelessness and housing stability system.

Draft Affordable Housing Implementation Guidelines

York Regional Council endorsed the Draft Affordable Housing Implementation Guidelines. These guidelines will be used for ongoing consultation with various stakeholders, including the nine local municipalities.

The guidelines include three main topics:

- Thresholds: Maximum affordable thresholds (calculated on an annual basis)
- Commitments: Local municipal securement to achieve targets
- Monitoring: Progress towards achieving York Regional Plan affordable housing targets

These guidelines will assist in ensuring 25 per cent of new housing built (and 35 per cent in centres and key development areas) is sold below the maximum affordable thresholds. It also supports [York Region's 10-Year Housing Plan](#), approved by York Regional Council today.

Following consultations later this year, the final guidelines will be brought back to Council for approval in early 2015.

York Region monitors progress of Official Plan implementation

York Regional Council today was updated on the [monitoring of the York Regional Official Plan](#). York Region is on track to meet most of the targets and policy objectives of the *York Region Official Plan 2010*. The plan outlines the policies to guide economic, environmental and community building and infrastructure decisions and a process for developing indicators to measure progress was outlined in a staff report to Council in May 2013. A list of 22 indicators was developed.

Highlights of the monitoring include:

- Continuing to enhance natural environments through Greening Strategy initiatives, including protecting 300 hectares of land and planting 400,000 trees and shrubs since 2009
- Diversifying York Region's housing stock, including increasing apartments, townhouses and affordable housing
- Maintaining strong growth in York Region's economy while improving the proportion of residents (55 per cent as of 2011) who both live and work in York Region

The Official Plan requires regular monitoring to track progress and provide evidence-based input to further policy review and development.

York Region Vacant Employment Land Inventory

York Regional Council today received an update on the current supply, characteristics and intensification opportunities of vacant employment lands across York Region.

Employment lands, or lands that are reserved in an official plan for industrial and business development, are important drivers of economic strengths of a community.

Currently, there are 2,972 net hectares of vacant employment lands within designated areas and the majority are located in close proximity to the 400-series highways and transit stops.

Information contained in the report will help build the employment forecasts and land budgeting in the Region's upcoming [Municipal Comprehensive Review](#) and will help identify employment and land needs from now until 2041.

Wellbeing Report shows employment sector gains in York Region's growing, diverse population

York Regional Council today received the [York Region Health and Wellbeing – Year End Review 2013](#), a report summarizing population, economic and social trends in York Region and their impacts on Community and Health Services programs and services.

Among many findings, the report details that despite positive trends in the employment sector of York Region's growing and diverse population, many residents continue to struggle with housing affordability and making ends meet.

Demand for Community and Health Services programs and services continue to grow, with call centres experiencing increasing volumes, and significant interest in programs supporting seniors and children.

York Region will continue to monitor trends and apply the report's findings to future program and service planning.

Community and Health Services assets in good condition

York Regional Council today received the Community and Health Services [2013 State of Infrastructure Report](#) showing The Regional Municipality of York's Community and Health Services department assets are in good condition.

The report was developed by a third-party to identify how well York Region's infrastructure is positioned to meet current and future demand. Community and Health Services received a positive overall rating of B in its first report, rating our assets as 'good' on the grading scale.

The report considered assets in the Housing, Long-Term Care and Emergency Medical Services areas of the Community and Health Services department. Examples of assets graded include Housing York locations (townhouses, apartment buildings and shelters), ambulances, vehicles and equipment patient lifts and long-term care home kitchen equipment.

Housing York Inc. apartments going smoke-free

York Regional Council today approved a [smoke-free policy and transition plan for Housing York Inc.](#) buildings to improve air quality for tenants, effective November 1.

New leases beginning on or after November 1 will prohibit smoking in units, balconies, patios and yards and will apply to occupants and guests. Smoking will be permitted in outdoor common areas, five or more metres from windows, doors or vents. A phased in implementation will begin in July 2014, with current residents exempt from the new requirements.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Ontario, killing 13,000 Ontarians each year. Approximately 75 per cent of existing Housing York Inc. residents do not smoke, and nearly half of smoking residents do not currently smoke inside their homes. As part of the implementation, a number of free-of-charge quit smoking supports will be offered to residents.

Housing York Inc. redevelopment project to create more affordable housing

York Regional Council today approved the transfer of ownership of 64 Abell Avenue in the City of Vaughan from The Regional Municipality of York to Housing York Inc. to support development of additional affordable housing units in the community.

Ownership of 64 Abell Avenue will be consolidated with adjacent sites, 259 Woodbridge Avenue and 275 Woodbridge Avenue in preparation for 150-unit site redevelopment. The project will enhance the look of Woodbridge Avenue and add additional, modernized affordable rental housing units to the area.

Demand for rental is high in York Region due to low vacancy rates and poor rental availability. The Woodbridge Avenue redevelopment project will help address rental demand in York Region's southern municipalities.

The Region's 2014 10-Year Capital Budget and Business Plan for Housing includes an estimated expenditure of \$43.1 million between 2014 and 2017. Federal and provincial funding has not yet been secured for the project.

More information on the project can be found in the [Woodbridge Site Preparation Activity Report](#) and the [Acquisition of Property at 64 Abell Avenue](#) report.

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

- 30 -

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