



Thursday, January 23, 2014

York Regional Council – January 23, 2014

York Regional Council is helping put a cap on youth homelessness

York Regional Council today participated in “Raising the Roof,” an annual national campaign created to put a cap on youth homelessness through the sale of winter toques by raising awareness and bringing visibility to youth homelessness.

In York Region, 300 youth are homeless at any given time. Now until February 4 (National Toque Tuesday Day), trademark *Raising the Roof* toques will be available for a [\\$10 donation](#) to support long-term solutions to homelessness.

Annual review helps to protect public safety and create disaster-resilient communities

York Regional Council today received an update on The Regional Municipality of York’s compliance with the annual requirements of *the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and Ontario Regulation 380/04. An update to the program bylaw reflecting changes to York Region’s emergency plan was also approved.

As part of the exercise, the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management completed an audit of York Region’s Emergency Management program, which has maintained compliance with the *Act* and Regulations since their origin in December 2004.

The annual Emergency Management review helps ensure safe and secure communities, promotes adaptability and sustainability and enhances our human resources and collaboration with area municipal partners.

York Region is diverse, affluent and educated

The results of the 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey conducted by Statistics Canada shows York Region is a diverse community comprised of more than 200 distinct ethnicities, holds the second highest median household income in the GTA (\$89,100) and has a highly educated labour force.

The economic and social data captured within the National Household Survey data helps the Region, local municipalities and community agencies understand the needs of the community when planning effective programs and services.

The survey information was used to update [What if York Region Were a Village of just 100 People?](#), an overview of York Region population characteristics.

York Regional Council recognizes March as Red Cross Month

York Regional Council today recognized March as Red Cross Month.

Over the years, the Canadian Red Cross has responded to a number of disasters not only in York Region but across Canada. Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, the Red Cross is able to respond to disasters small and large.

Council approves 'No Stopping Anytime' restriction on Elgin Mills Road

York Regional Council today approved a 'No Stopping Anytime' restriction on both sides of Elgin Mills Road, from 160 metres east of Woodbine Bypass to 120 metres west of Woodbine Bypass in the City of Markham.

The restriction will help increase traffic safety and visibility as truck drivers park their vehicles on the westbound and eastbound curb lanes of Elgin Mills Road. This has resulted in heavy traffic congestion in a busy corridor during peak periods, creating potential safety issues for other drivers travelling on Elgin Mills Road who have to drive around the parked trucks.

York Region to develop strategy for growing, changing needs of seniors

York Regional Council today approved the next steps in the development of the York Region Seniors Strategy to address the growing and changing needs of the fastest growing segment of our community.

Research conducted by The Regional Municipality of York will help understand the social, economic and health characteristics of boomers and seniors, as well as what impact the changing needs of seniors (65 years and older) may be on the services provided by York Region.

York Region has identified 87 programs, services and policies that may be impacted by a growing senior population. Building on the work already done, additional research will be conducted to develop a framework that sets the direction for a York Region Seniors Strategy.

The draft strategic framework will be reported to York Regional Council in September 2014 and a draft strategy will be presented to Council in September 2015.

Council approves speed limit revisions on Regional roads

York Regional Council today approved speed reductions on the following five Regional roads:

Leslie Street: Wellington Street in the Town of Aurora to 1.1 kilometres north of Mulock Drive in the Town of Newmarket, reduced from 70 and 80 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour

Warden Avenue: between Queensville Sideroad and Ravenshoe Road in the Town of East Gwillimbury, reduced from 80 kilometres an hour to 70 kilometres an hour

Leslie Street: from Green Lane to 535 metres north of Green Lane in the Town of East Gwillimbury, reduced from 60 kilometres an hour to 50 kilometres an hour

Warden Avenue: from 200 metres north of Doane Road North to 600 metres south of Doane Road South in the Town of East Gwillimbury, reduced from 70 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour

Lloydton/Aurora Road: between Dufferin Street and Keele Street in the Township of King, reduced from 80 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour

Semi-annual speed limit revisions take into account several factors for ensuring the speed limit is safe for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. Factors may include traffic volume, whether the road section passes through an urban or a rural area, number of lanes, presence of public transit and on-street parking.

Water for Tomorrow calendar highlights value of water conservation education

York Regional Council today received copies of the 2014 [Water for Tomorrow](#) student calendar, featuring artwork by 12 of York Region's Grade 7 students.

The calendar promotes a number of environmental events, such as Earth Day and World Water Day and also includes water and environmental education content and information.

York Region Business Directory data benefits businesses across the Region

York Regional Council today received an update on the [York Region Business Directory](#), providing data on company information, number of employees and contact information. The directory assists business marketing efforts, sources local trades and analyzes the Regional economy and benefits for residents.

Businesses can voluntarily submit their information through the directory website.

The York Small Business Enterprise Centre supports the Region's northern six municipalities

York Regional Council today received an update on the York Small Business Enterprise Centre, supporting small business and entrepreneurs in the northern six municipalities within York Region. The centre provides advice and education in the early stages of business start-up, as well as those looking for growth.

Small businesses having 20 employees or fewer account for approximately 84 per cent of businesses in York Region. Over the past year, the [York Small Business Enterprise Centre](#) has provided assistance to more than 575 clients, helped establish 51 new businesses and 34 expansions. It also provides training to keep small businesses up-to-date on new technology and opportunities to further their business.

York Region Economic Development Action Plan

The Regional Municipality of York annual *Economic Development Action Plan* provides direction for business opportunities available to York Region. Creative innovation is the basis for the Region's future economic growth and vitality.

York Regional Council receives regular updates on the *Economic Development Action Plan*, approved by Council in 2012. The plan identifies six distinctive goals:

- Develop a greater post-secondary and research presence
- Provide connectivity infrastructure to support innovation
- Develop the innovation network connecting businesses to opportunities
- Develop a strong, common marketing message
- Creating *the* place to live, work and invest, including appropriate real estate
- Develop a viable workforce

The plan was developed to complement the local municipal economic strategies already in place and benefits residents and businesses across the entire Region.

York Region donates Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance

York Regional Council approved the donation of a decommissioned EMS ambulance to Friends of Ecuador, a humanitarian not-for-profit organization.

The ambulance will allow the Municipality of Salinas and its hospital in Ecuador to transport patients in need of immediate medical attention. Costs associated with shipping and the related costs will be covered by Friends of Ecuador.

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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The Regional Municipality of York provides services to 1.1 million residents and 42,000 businesses that employ 533,000 people