

CELEBRATING



# STRONG, CARING, SAFE COMMUNITIES

Although York Region turned 50 this year, Indigenous Peoples have called this land home for centuries. We honour Indigenous Peoples, ancestors and future generations on this land that we share with reverence and humility.

From our official start on January 1, 1971 to today, we've grown from a population of 169,200 in 1971 to 1.2 million residents – and into one of Canada's most diverse communities. With that growth came services and infrastructure to make York Region the destination of choice to live, work and play.

# LOOKING BACK WITH 50 FACTS ABOUT YORK REGION

- 1970: Plans approved for the creation of a Regional government that would dissolve York County
- 1970: The Act to establish The Regional Municipality of York that was passed effective January 1, 1971



- 1971: Fourteen municipal departments and the York County Security Police amalgamate to form York Regional Police
- 1971: York Region hires first Chief Administrative Officer, Alexander J. Rettie
- 1971: York Regional Council adopts a new crest



- 1973: York Region publishes first annual report
- 1974: York Region celebrates York Regional Forest's 50th anniversary

- 1977: Construction of Highway 404 between Steeles Avenue and Highway 7 begins
- 1984: The York-Durham Sewer System (Stage II) opens to service the Town of Aurora and Town of Newmarket

- 1985: Groundbreaking ceremony for Markham Stouffville Hospital
- 1987: Groundbreaking ceremony for Highway 407
- 1988: York Region's first non-profit housing corporation is formed
- 1993: Hadley Grange, affordable housing for seniors, opens in the Town of Aurora



- 1994: York Region Administrative Centre and York Regional Police Headquarters opens in the Town of Newmarket
- 1994: York Region launches 911 call centre
- 1994: York Regional Council adopts the first Regional Official Plan



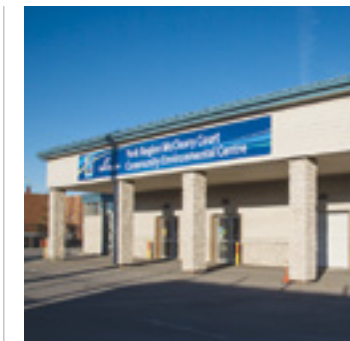
- 1996: York Region celebrates the 200th anniversary of Yonge Street
- 1997: Province of Ontario transfers ownership of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant to York and Durham Regions
- 1997: York Region launches its first website
- 1998: York Region launches Water for Tomorrow campaign; this program along with the Long-Term Water Conservation Strategy contributes to saving more than 27 megalitres of water per day

- 1999: York Region takes responsibility for administering Court Services
- 2000: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) amalgamates six ambulance services into one centralized EMS System

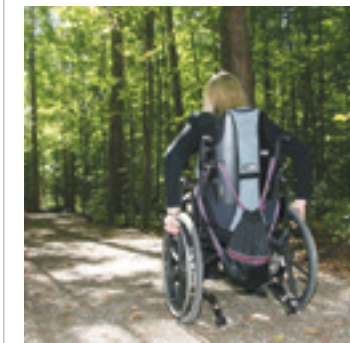
- 2000: York Regional Forest becomes the first public forest in Canada to be Forest Stewardship Council certified
- 2000: York Regional Council passes a No-Smoking bylaw
- 2001: Municipal transit amalgamates to form York Region Transit (YRT) and York Region Transit Mobility Plus
- 2005: New Material Recovery Facility opens in the Town of East Gwillimbury
- 2005: York Region launches Viva Rapid Transit
- 2006: Sutton Youth Services opens its doors to provide emergency and transitional housing for youth (16 to 26 years old) in the Town of Georgina



- 2008: York Region begins three-stream waste management system (blue box, organic waste and garbage)

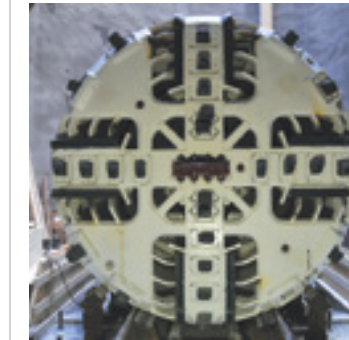


- 2009: York Region opens its first Community Environmental Centre; McCleary Court in the City of Vaughan
- 2009: York Region's first family shelter, Leeder Place, opens in the Town of East Gwillimbury



- 2010: York Region's first accessible trail opens in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- 2011: Construction of King City municipal sewer system is mainly complete
- 2011: York Regional Council approves the Immigration Settlement Strategy

- 2013: York Region's first roundabout opens in the City of Markham
- 2014: York Regional Council endorses the Archaeological Management Plan to ensure the protection of First Nations, Métis and European archeological resources



- 2014: York Region completes 15-kilometre tunnel for Southeast Collector trunk sewer
- 2015: Belinda's Place Women's Shelter opens in the Town of Newmarket
- 2015: York University campus in the City of Markham is announced

- 2017: York Region celebrates the 40th anniversary of Early Intervention Services
- 2018: The Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre was the first building in Canada and 21st building world-wide to successfully become Living Building Challenge Certified for its innovative features
- 2018: York Region affirms its commitment to diversity and inclusion by adopting its first Inclusion Charter
- 2019: York Region continues to rank first for highest diversion rate in the large urban municipality category and diverted 94% of its waste from landfill



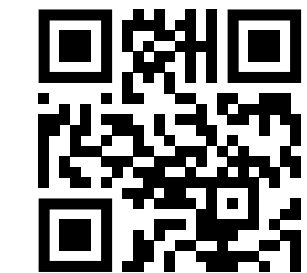
- 2020: The new environmentally sustainable York Region office at 17150 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket brings key Regional services to one location

- 2020: For the first time, York Region declares a State of Emergency on March 23 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic



- 2020: York Region Transit launches its first electric buses from Newmarket Terminal
- 2021: Opening of the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital in the City of Vaughan

Learn more about York Region over the past 50 years by scanning the QR code on your smartphone or visit [york.ca/YRturns50](http://york.ca/YRturns50)



#YRturns50