

Event Summary: Community Open House

The Queensway South Development

Overview

On February 24, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., York Region held a Community Open House for The Queensway South Development at the Georgina Ice Palace Hall. This drop-in style event provided information about a new affordable housing development at 187-195 The Queensway South, Keswick in the Town of Georgina which will include, approximately 86 affordable housing units, including community, transitional and emergency housing options and 8,000 square feet of community space. The event was attended by nearly 100 participants who



shared their feedback and questions through conversations with staff, written comment forms and sticky note activities on engagement boards. After the event, feedback was gathered through an online feedback form, providing additional opportunities for residents to share input on the development and community space. The online feedback form was available until March 15, 2026.

This summary provides a high-level synopsis of feedback received during and following the event.

What We Heard

Community feedback was generally positive or neutral, with many residents interested in learning more about the development as it evolves. Participants expressed support for increasing housing options in Georgina and appreciated the inclusion of a publicly accessible community space. Participants raised questions about how the housing system will function, including how residents will be selected, how long individuals may stay in emergency or transitional housing, and how residents transition to longer-term housing options. Participants also asked about the management of the building and the types of supports that will be available to residents.

Attendees asked questions and provided comments about how the development's housing component would operate, including the mix of housing types, the duration of stays for transitional and emergency housing, the size and physical accessibility considerations of units, and how residents would move through the housing system. A few participants expressed interest in both renting and purchasing units within the development (the development will not offer an ownership model).

Key topics included:

- Traffic management and parking availability, including space for operational staff and visitors
- Privacy for neighbouring homes
- Privacy of future residents when they access supports and services within the building
- Noise mitigation strategies when building is occupied
- Building height
- Proactively integrating best practices and lessons learned from comparable developments
- Impacts on property values and neighbourhood character
- Infrastructure and service capacity to support future residents, such as sufficient primary care, other health care services including mental well-being
- Safety and security measures, including 24-hour security
- Modular build for cost and energy efficiency
- Improvements to the surrounding area, such as walking paths, improved roads and additional green space
- A welcoming and visually appealing entrance and overall development design
- Accessible cupboards and countertops that can be lowered
- Expand transit services to improve access to employment, services and amenities

COMMUNITY SPACE

Participants shared a range of ideas for what The Queensway South 8,000 square feet of community space could include. Many comments focused on creating a welcoming, multi-purpose space that supports connection, recreation and access to services. Participants also emphasized the importance of low-cost or free programming, particularly activities for seniors, youth and families. Suggestions also included integrating health and social services within the space, including career supports, legal clinics and resource navigation.

Key topics included:

- Community food pantry, kitchen and shared cooking space with industrial size considerations
- Raised garden beds and community garden areas
- Youth-focused spaces
- Co-working and meeting spaces
- Quiet rooms for relaxation, prayer or meditation
- Gym/sport and wellness activities
- Workshop and learning programs, such as CPR training, job skills development and skill-building
- Community hub services, providing access to housing supports, mental health resources and social service navigation
- Informal, positive ways for police to interact with community members, such as sports games and drop-in talk times
- Community mural and storytelling through art

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When will construction be complete and people can access housing?

A: Pre-construction activities are anticipated to begin in late 2026, with construction scheduled for completion in early 2029. York Region is actively exploring strategies to accelerate the delivery for not only this project, but for all of community, transitional and emergency housing projects; this includes using factory-built components, an approach proven successful in past developments and remains a key consideration for future developments.

Details about future rental opportunities, will be available closer to the end of construction. Visit york.ca/TheQueenswaySouth for updates and to subscribe to the development e-newsletter.

Q: Why is the mix of housing types in one building?

A: This development is part of a broader, long-term effort to reduce housing insecurity. By investing in housing solutions, York Region is helping create a more resilient, connected and equitable community for all. By combining resources and expertise, York Region and the Town of Georgina are creating new housing options while improving access to services and community spaces.

Q: What measures will be in place to support safety and security for residents and the surrounding neighbourhood?

A: York Region is committed to providing safe, inclusive and respectful communities for all residents. Housing York Inc. (HYI), as the operator, employs a range of safety measures across our buildings, including secure access control, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, appropriate lighting and active partnerships with local law enforcement. HYI works closely with tenants, staff, community agencies and local partners to support and promote tenant and community safety.

Q: Who is eligible for emergency housing, what screening is involved, and how do residents transition from emergency to transitional and permanent housing over time?

A: Staff work with clients in emergency housing to identify and support their needs. This includes case management and wraparound services, as well as identifying the client's path to housing stability. Residents experiencing homelessness can access the Emergency Housing Central Intake Line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 76140. This phone line is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Q: How and who will manage, operate and provide support services to the building?

A: Housing York Inc. will own and maintain the building. A third-party service provider will operate the facility, including overseeing programming and wraparound services in emergency and transitional housing.

Q: How will the development support Georgina specifically?

A: The development will provide several benefits to Georgina residents, including a process to apply for affordable market rent units, access to transitional and emergency housing where available, and publicly accessible community space. Georgina residents interested in renting an affordable market rent unit are encouraged to complete the Housing York Inc. [market rent subscriber's list form](#).

Q: How can someone apply for housing and what is the waitlist time?

A: For information on subsidized housing in York Region, including eligibility and how to apply, visit york.ca/ApplyforHousing or call the Region's Corporate Contact Centre at 1-877-464-9675.

Wait times vary by municipality, unit size, turnover, and specific needs such as accessibility. Overall, the average wait time for a subsidized community housing unit is 10.1 years, ranging from 8.5 years for families, 9.6 years for seniors and 12.2 years for single non-senior households.

Q: What are the development costs and funding sources?

A: The Queensway South Development is a fully funded project in the York Region 2026 Budget and endorsed in the 10 Year Capital Plan. The total capital budget for the development is \$60.5 million. The Town of Georgina is contributing \$3 million to Housing York Inc., through the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) program and the Provincial Building Faster Fund (BFF) program. The Region will continue to advocate to senior levels of government for funding opportunities that could be attributed to the project.

Q: Why was The Queensway South selected as the site location?

A: The site was selected in accordance with York Region's approved [site selection framework](#), which included a search of potential properties in areas that met planning guidelines and included access to existing community amenities and transportation.

This development supports the Town of Georgina's Strategic Plan, Housing Needs Assessment and the Keswick Secondary Plan by promoting inclusive growth, enhancing community well-being and ensuring long-term success.