

Clause 18 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 25, 2017.

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## 2016 YorkInfo Partnership Annual Report

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated May 18, 2017 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities for information.
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Report dated May 18, 2017 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services now follows:

### 1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities for information.

### 2. Purpose

This report informs Council on the 2016 achievements and 2017 goals of the YorkInfo Partnership, which provides an important support role in program planning and service delivery.

### 3. Background

Staff report annually on the progress and successes of this local municipal partnership

In [May 2016](#), the 2015 YorkInfo Partnership annual report recognized the data sharing Partnership is leading to benefits for residents across the Region. This 2015 annual report included two goals for 2016:

1. Acquire and provide shared access to historical air photos from the year 1954
2. Improve Partner access to information by enabling electronic data downloads.

The report noted the commitment of all Partners to making their data more accessible and sharing best practices.

The partnership is a central point for data collaboration with the local municipalities

Since 1996, the Region has worked together with local municipalities, York Region District and York Catholic District School Boards, and Lake Simcoe and Toronto and Region Conservation Authorities as the YorkInfo Partnership. The purpose of the Partnership has evolved to help Partners maximize their investment in data and technology.

The Partnership has created a culture of data collaboration, built GIS capacity broadly, and remains committed to sharing efforts, pooling resources, improving data management and access, enhancing business capabilities and extracting insight using analytics.

Quality data is an important asset that supports informed decision making

Data is a key organizational asset that can be used to support informed decision making. The YorkInfo Partnership pools resources and shares costs associated with large purchases of commonly used data, such as orthophotography. This collaboration results in all Partners having access to higher quality data at a reduced cost.

Access to trusted data is foundational to the success of local and regional programs and services

Partners generate, or purchase, a large variety and enormous volume of data. There are many areas where organizations share responsibility in delivering programs and services to residents and businesses. Data generated by one organization is often of value to another organization in support of their work. The Partnership helps facilitate the sharing of trusted data between the Partners. An example of the successful sharing of trusted data is the All Pipes Program. All Pipes is a collaborative initiative between Partners to maintain a single common database for water and wastewater infrastructure.

The YorkInfo Commons Data Sharing Agreement enables all data, including All Pipes, to be shared between partners. This best-practice reduces duplication,

increases the value with use and ultimately boosts the confidence in the data as the trusted source.

A new work plan establishes priorities to 2018

In 2016, a cross organizational collaborative group, which included Chief Information Officers (CIOs), directors, managers and staff, established the two year priorities for the Partnership.

The work plan is managed collaboratively and projects are completed by teams comprised of staff from partner organizations. Organizations can choose to participate in any or all projects based on value to their organization and resources they have available.

To support growth and development in the Region and increase access to trusted data, eleven projects were identified as key areas to focus on between 2016 and 2018. These projects include Asset Management, Data Analytics, Data Management Governance, Development Tracking, Digital Plan Uploads, Easements, ELA Opportunities, GIS to Data Evolution, Lidar Acquisition, Open Data and Stormwater Data Model.

The work plan is revisited quarterly to record progress on existing projects, adjust resourcing and priority of the identified tasks, and stage new projects for the next multi-year work plan. It is presented to the Local Chief Administrative Officers' on an annual basis.

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

The partnership achieved a number of successes in 2016

In 2016, the Partnership work plan focused on enabling electronic uploads of data from the development community, making data more readily accessible and sharing knowledge and best practices. This report provides an update on six projects from 2016.

##### 1. Self-Serve Data Depot has won numerous awards

The Self-Serve Data Depot (SSDD) currently supports the download of data from the Region to Partners. At any time, Partners can download over 190 up-to-date datasets including roads, parcels and addresses from the SSDD (plus an additional 150 census layers).

Enhancements completed in 2016 enabled partners to customize their geographic areas and identify datasets of interest. The benefits of the system to Partners are:

- Save staff time in supplying data to customers
- Ensure data is exchanged in a secure manner with documentation
- Improve the value of datasets through broader access

The SSDD initiative won: the Municipal Information Systems Association (MISA) Excellence in Municipal Systems Award, the People's Choice Award as well as the Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC) Service Delivery Excellence award. There has been broad interest in the SSDD from Municipalities across Canada looking to deploy a similar solution to their customers.

2. The Town of Newmarket rapidly deploys its open data program leveraging York Region's resources and technology

Open data is data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone. The goals of [York Region's Open Data program](#) are to increase communities' access to data, make data available in an easy to use way, improve transparency and support economic development.

This year the Partnership held two technical workshops on Open Data to share knowledge, expertise and resources. York Region staff worked with the Town of Newmarket to deploy its Open Data program this year. The Town was able to leverage York Region's existing technology resources and best practices to launch its Open Data site within two weeks of receiving the technology. This rapid deployment was a direct benefit of being a member in the Partnership.

This success highlights the benefits of a coordinated approach to Open Data through the Partnership. Open Data makes it easy for the public to access a wealth of data from any Partner embracing a no-wrong-door approach. Organizations can share best practices and save time and money by adopting common technologies or compatible solutions.

3. A stormwater data model was created putting partners one step closer to tracking low impact development

Building on the successes of the All Pipes program, the Partnership identified a need for a common storm water data model to compliment the common water and wastewater models. Led by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, a model was created to support the building of a region-wide database

and mapping application to support the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and other business uses.

All Partners are working towards adoption of the data model and, when populated with data, the project will provide the ability to track the uptake and implementation of low impact development technologies across the watershed. It will track the maintenance of all storm water features to reduce phosphorous loads and predict when maintenance may be required based on the age of the facility and land use activities within contributing catchment areas.

When fully implemented, the model will support the administration of storm water rebate programs and provide data to support inflow and infiltration studies.

4. Aerial imagery acquisition enhances understanding of our communities dating back over half a century

Aerial imagery provides a rich understanding of the geography of the Region. It documents an area's growth, supports operational decisions and is integrated directly into many applications. Aerial imagery is acquired annually and is shared with all Partner organizations.

In 2016, historical images dating back to 1954 were acquired for the entire region to supplement the 1970, 1978 and 1988 aerial images. Historical aerial imagery lets planners, engineers and building departments know if buildings or trees existed at a specific point in time allowing municipalities to more effectively enforce permitting bylaws. Staff, Partners and the public have access to the aerial imagery through the Region's YorkMaps website and through Partners web mapping applications.

5. Digital plan upload portal provides a pilot project for developers to submit development plans online

In 2016, York Region deployed a pilot project for developers to upload Computer Aided Design (CAD) files for land use planning and engineering projects through a web based portal. This secure portal, (currently being piloted in the City of Vaughan, Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina and the Township of King) checks the uploaded file for conformance to the submission standard, translates the data into a common file format and stores development drawings in a centrally accessible data warehouse for easy viewing and analysis.

Benefits achieved by the pilot, thus far, include:

- Increased collaboration with the development community making it easier for land developers to deliver their plans digitally moving towards paperless submissions

- Increased communication and efficiencies in the development review process
- Decreased risk of duplication and improved data quality and usability as the data is automatically brought into mapping systems.

The pilot has been well received by the Partners and a number of Developers who participated. The full solution is scheduled to go live in 2017 with further enhancements that will include a redesigned user interface that will be branded to match the logo and colour schemes of each local Municipality, increased training materials and videos to support self-training and an increase in the quality and quantity of data the system will support.

6. Enterprise purchasing agreements enable partners to acquire common data and technologies at reduced pricing

One of the major benefits of membership in the YorkInfo Partnership is the significant cost savings offered by the power of group purchases of data and technology. Pooling resources saves time in negotiations and contract management, provides a common technology platform for sharing data and best practices and offers common user interfaces for staff, public and others.

This year 12 out of the 14 Partner organizations participated in one or more group purchases of aerial imagery, Teranet property information, Voyager Search Open Data technology and Safe Software FME providing savings for the participants.

The 2017 work plan priorities will enhance access to data, build data knowledge and capacity

The Partnership's sub- committees meet annually to identify and prioritize projects to be undertaken, with the support of the Partnership, over the next three to four years. In 2017, the Partnership's work plan will build on the work completed in 2016 with a focus on:

- Enabling electronic uploads of data from the development community
- Making data more readily accessible through Open Data
- Sharing asset management best practices
- Increase data knowledge through workshops and training
- Increase communications through increased focus on marketing and communications and a relaunch of the Partner portal

The Coordinating Committee meets each quarter and the Executive Board meets annually. There are two knowledge sharing workshops and training courses are offered throughout the year.

The partnership supports the strategic priority area of provide responsive and efficient public service in the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan

Data is a key strategic asset. The Partnership enables access to a common source of trusted data to Local Municipal, Conservation Authority, School Board, Regional staff and staff in other organizations in support of efficient program planning and service delivery.

## 5. Financial Considerations

The funding to support the YorkInfo Partnership has been included in the Data, Analytics and Visualization Services 2017 budget. Partner organizations share the cost of acquiring data sets. These joint purchases result in cost savings to all Partners. Two examples are the annual acquisition of aerial imagery and the agreement negotiated with Teranet Enterprise Inc. Enterprise Licence Agreements. In addition the Region's GIS training program provides training to Partner organizations at no charge.

## 6. Local Municipal Impact

All nine local municipalities are members of the YorkInfo Partnership. They, and the Region, benefit from enterprise license agreements, technology pilots, GIS training and knowledge sharing to provide value to our residents and businesses.

## 7. Conclusion

The YorkInfo Partnership works together to achieve results that could not be accomplished individually resulting in significant time and cost savings. The focus has evolved from Geographical Information Systems to sharing of data among Partner organizations.

In 2016, the YorkInfo Partnership collaboratively acquired and made trusted data accessible, developed technology solutions, and strengthened data capacity to provide responsive and efficient public service.

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In 2017, the Partnership's work plan will build on the work completed in 2016 with a focus on enabling electronic uploads of data from the development community, making data more readily accessible, and sharing knowledge and best practices.

For more information on this report, please contact John Houweling, Director, Data, Analytics and Visualization Services at ext. 71529.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

May 18, 2017

Attachments ()

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request