



Friday, September 12, 2014

Regional Council – September 11, 2014

York Regional Council supports York University satellite campus in Markham Centre

York Regional Council today authorized the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with York University and a commitment of up to \$25 million to support a bid to build the first university campus in York Region.

The proposed York University campus will be located in the heart of Markham Centre, a vibrant new urban area, next to the new Markham Pan Am Centre. Selected with the needs of students in mind, the Markham Centre location will also have entertainment facilities, sports fields and amenities such as the YMCA. The Markham Pan Am Centre will host water polo, badminton and table tennis, plus Parapan table tennis competitions of the 2015 PanAm Games.

During the selection process of proposed locations, York University, together with Seneca College, consulted with six Regional municipalities on five sites. In June, the City of Markham was announced as the preferred location.

Within five years of opening, York University aims to have 5,000 students, increasing to 20,000 students in 20 years. A range of professional programs will be delivered, including a significant partnership with Seneca College. The campus will be carefully integrated into the local, urban environment and will act as an anchor for other commercial, residential and retail uses.

Markham Centre is north of Highway 407 between Kennedy Road and Warden Avenue in the City of Markham.

New Commissioner of Corporate Services appointed

York Regional Council announced the appointment of Dino Basso as York Region's new Commissioner of Corporate Services, effective September 29.

Mr. Basso is a licensed civil engineer with more than 24 years of industry experience, including 20 years in increasingly responsible roles with the Region.

During the last five years as Executive Director for the Region's Corporate and Strategic Planning department, Mr. Basso guided the development of many key corporate policies and priorities, including the Regional Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015 and the Economic Development Action Plan.

Corporate Services is responsible for court services, human resources, property matters and the Regional Clerk's office. As part of his new Commissioner role, Mr. Basso will add Corporate Communications and Corporate Initiatives branches to the Corporate Services department.

The Legal Services branch, under the direction of Regional Solicitor Joy Hulton, will now report directly to the Chief Administrative Officer.

York Regional Council thanks Sylvia Patterson on her pending retirement

York Region Chairman and CEO acknowledged the upcoming retirement of long-time Community and Health Services Department employee Sylvia Patterson, General Manager, Housing and Long-Term Care and Assistant General Manager, Housing York Inc.

Ms. Patterson has worked for the Region for the past 15 years and contributed to public service for 35 years. She has been an active member of many housing sector organizations and associations, including her most recent role as the President of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association.

York Region donates ambulance to Chippewas of Georgina Island

York Regional Council approved the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to the Chippewas of Georgina Island.

Previously used by York Region Emergency Medical Services, the donated ambulance will be used to support the Chippewas' volunteer Emergency First Response Team. This team provides care and transport of patients to the mainland where care is transferred to York Region paramedics.

Since 2011, York Region has donated six ambulances to registered not-for-profit charities in Canada and internationally. More information is available in the [report](#).

Council approves York Region Transit 2015 Annual Service Plan

York Regional Council today approved the [Transit Service Plan](#) for 2015, which provides direction and guidance for the planning and implementation of transit services across York Region.

Included in the plan are service change adjustments designed to strengthen the grid network and match service to demand and supply.

The plan was developed in consultation with local municipalities, residents, transit partners and other stakeholders to ensure it aligns with current needs and future growth.

York Region diverts 87 per cent of waste from landfill

York Region's commitment to the four Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle and recover – have [helped divert 87 per cent of waste](#) collected curbside and at Regional depots from landfill in 2013.

Key findings summarized in 2013 Waste Diversion Report include:

- 94,591 tonnes of source separated organics (green bin) collected
- 87,879 tonnes of blue box items collected curbside and from public drop-off facilities
- 40,486 tonnes of yard waste collected curbside and from public drop-off facilities
- 6,297 tonnes of tires, clean fill, textiles, wood waste, scrap metal and other materials received at public drop-off facilities
- \$8.53 million in revenue generated by sale of blue box recyclables

York Region's 2013 Waste Diversion Report will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change later this year and posted online at that time.

York Regional Council recognizes Waste Reduction Week

York Regional Council recognized October 20 to 26 Waste Reduction Week, an initiative to educate, engage and empower Canadians to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. The program will raise awareness of the environmental and social ramifications of wasteful practices in all facets of daily living, and provide ideas and solutions to the many environmental challenges we face, including climate change, water pollution and preservation of natural resources.

Long-term organic waste (green bin) processing in place to 2027

York Region has amended current agreements with Orgaworld Canada and Lafleche Environmental for haulage and processing of 84,500 to 130,000 tonnes per year of green bin organics through June 2020, with options to renew through 2027.

The Region will complete an assessment of available long-term options for source separated organics processing, with preference given to the option of a York Region-owned processing facility.

York Region continues monitoring, addressing impacts of emerald ash borer

York Region continues to implement actions outlined in the [Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#), approved by Regional Council in 2011.

Infestation is now throughout every municipality in York Region. As part of the mitigation strategy, the Region has removed 2,500 to 3,000 ash trees on Regional roads since 2012. In the coming years, the Region will remove any remaining affected trees and replace them with trees of various species. Where possible, staff will treat large, healthy ash trees with insecticide to protect them.

York Region staff continue hosting public education and outreach events to educate residents about the impact of the emerald ash borer. Additional information is available on www.york.ca

10-year capital plan ensures York Region is ready for the future

A \$3.2 billion [10-year Capital Plan](#) for The Regional Municipality of York's key water and sewage infrastructure projects will meet current population demands and support future growth in our communities.

Among the projects highlighted in the capital infrastructure status update presented to York Regional Council:

- Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant
 - Receives and treats sewage from York and Durham Regions
- Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer
 - Allows for additional sanitary sewer flows expected from future growth, in accordance with the provincial *Places to Grow Act*
- Upper York Sewage Solutions
 - Will provide local, sustainable sewage servicing in the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket
- Kennedy Road Watermain
 - Will provide additional water from the City of Toronto to the City of Markham to meet long-term growth demands
- West Vaughan Sewage Servicing
 - Required to accommodate growth in west Vaughan

Preparations underway for new Social Assistance Management System

York Region will be transitioning to a new Social Assistance Management System developed by the Province of Ontario in November 2014. The new system will replace the existing Service Delivery Model Technology currently used for Ontario Works case management.

The system will provide a number of benefits, including improved customer service through new online options and a streamlined business process that reduces paperwork.

The Province of Ontario will provide one-time funding of \$111,200 to the Region to assist with implementation costs.

York Region receives new funding for affordable housing projects

The Province of Ontario recently announced an extension of the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario Program, a joint initiative with the federal government which will provide additional funding for York Region affordable housing projects.

The program extension will provide funding for affordable housing until 2020. Between 2014 and 2015, York Region will receive \$5,014,600. These funds will support construction of the Richmond Hill Housing and Community Hub project located in the Town of Richmond Hill.

Funding for the remaining five years of the program is dependent on new census data. York Region's total anticipated share of the funding available under this program is approximately \$45 million.

York Region continues to create an accessible and inclusive community

York Regional Council received an update on the accessibility activities completed by York Region, York Regional Police and the York Region Police Services Board to comply with requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) for January 1, 2014.

Working under the guidance of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, the three groups fulfilled organization-wide requirements in the areas of employment practices, training, feedback processes, website and transportation.

Some specific accessibility accomplishments include:

- Developed corporate guidelines for accessible recruitment
- Provided AODA training to all staff
- Provided feedback on the accessible features of the redesigned www.york.ca
- Completed accessibility training for YRT/Viva and Mobility Plus contractors

Staff will continue to move forward with implementing additional requirements under the AODA to ensure an ongoing inclusive and accessible culture in York Region.

York Region and Community Partnership Council make strides under Immigration Settlement Strategy

York Regional Council received an update on the implementation of the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy, a vision to support the overall well-being of newcomers. In the second year of a three-year implementation plan, all 10 collective actions were completed or are in-progress.

In 2014, the Community Partnership Council has worked together with York Region on a number of initiatives under the plan, including:

- Working with employers on the retention and recruitment of immigrants
- Launching a directory to help newcomers start a business
- Creating a self-assessment tool to help organizations respond to diversity

For more information on the York Region [Immigration Settlement Strategy](#) and online resources to help newcomers, please visit www.yorkwelcome.ca or read the [report](#).

York Region staff receive award from Excellence Canada

Excellence Canada recently awarded York Region's Community and Health Services Department with a Bronze Level Award for Excellence, Wellness and Innovation.

The award recognized the best practices of the Child and Family Health Division of the Public Health Branch. They included an extraordinary focus on customer service, a culture of quality and accountability and extraordinary collaboration across the entire division.

Excellence Canada recognizes organizational excellence through comprehensive certification programs and awards.

York Region Transit Southwest Division Operations and Maintenance contract extended

York Regional Council today extended the contract with Viola Transportation Services (Canada) Inc., which operates within the York Region Transit (YRT) southwest division. The contract includes maintenance of the assigned conventional bus fleet for a period of five years, from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2020.

Public transit commuters will benefit from the high standards imposed upon the operating contractors, particularly in the areas of service delivery and vehicle maintenance and continuity of transit service.

York Regional Council recognizes Ontario Coaches Week and Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

York Regional Council has recognized September 20 to 27 as Ontario Coaches Week, a week-long campaign to recruit, develop and celebrate community coaches around the province. The request was submitted by Girls Incorporated of York Region, a non-profit youth organization dedicated to empowering girls and young women to seek the highest quality of life possible.

Council also recognized October 29 as Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day to acknowledge the education, skills, commitment and dedication of early childhood educators and child care staff who provide care to children in our community. Affordable, accessible and high-quality early learning and child care services allow parents to work, retrain and contribute to the economic life of society.

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

Compiled by: Tim Paleczny, Corporate Communications, The Regional Municipality of York
905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 71238 Cell: 905-251-6413 tim.paleczny@york.ca