

SPRING 2022

YORK REGION MATTERS




York Region

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A welcomed reopening **P2**

YORK REGION MATTERS

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MESSAGE FROM YORK REGION CHAIRMAN AND CEO

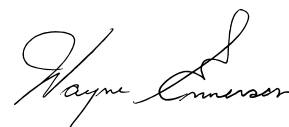
It has been said all along – this pandemic is a marathon, not a sprint.

York Region residents did a remarkable job keeping numbers as low as possible; the millions of Ontarians who chose to be vaccinated should be applauded. Your contribution to safeguarding your family, friends and neighbours has helped Ontario reopen its doors.

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, York Region lifted the state of emergency enacted on Monday, March 23, 2020.

My heartfelt thanks goes to those who organized vaccination clinics, set them up, worked there in any capacity – and especially to those who continued to receive vaccines. We don't know what the future holds – but we'll be ready for it.

To continue being successful and keeping COVID-19 behind us, please do your part and get a vaccine or booster as soon as you are eligible.




Wayne Emmerson
York Region Chairman and CEO

ON THE COVER



As we celebrate Ontario's reopening, it is important to remember COVID-19 is still in our communities. To protect yourself and those around you and to remain on the path we have worked so hard

to achieve, continue following basic public health guidelines:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow
- Clean high-touch surfaces often
- Get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell

Some businesses and other settings may continue to require masks and/or proof of vaccination.

Please respect these rules.

For more information please visit york.ca/covid19



Tell us what you think

We always look for ways to enhance our publication and include information you are interested in.

For a chance to win a \$50 gift card, tell us what you think about this edition and what you would like to see in the future at york.ca/yorkregionmatters



Pesky business

Spring is a great time to get outdoors. It's also a season to take precautions against Lyme disease and West Nile virus. West Nile virus is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, while Lyme disease is spread through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick.

Protect yourself with these simple tips:

- Wear light-coloured pants and long-sleeved tops to help spot ticks
- Choose closed footwear and tuck your pants into your socks
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin
- Search your body for ticks, especially the groin, scalp, underarm areas and back
- Remove attached ticks from your body as quickly as possible
- Clean up standing water around your home where mosquitoes like to breed

Visit york.ca/lymedisease and york.ca/westnile for more information.



Like the spring and summer of 2021, another *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD)/Spongy moth infestation is predicted.

To mitigate impacts to Regional street trees at greatest risk, egg mass scraping and treatment of select high value trees with insecticide will take place. Landowners are responsible for protecting trees on their property. Several local cities and towns will be providing free burlap band kits to help safely collect and dispose of Spongy moth caterpillars.

Learn about the history of Spongy moth, leaves they like and how to protect your trees at york.ca/spongymoth



Is 9-1-1 the right call?

In a medical emergency, 9-1-1 is always the right call.

York Region's paramedics are available to respond to medical emergencies any time, day or night. They provide medical attention and a safe ride to the hospital.

Call 9-1-1 if you or someone you know is experiencing:

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Heart attack or stroke symptoms
- Sudden severe pain
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Confusion, disorientation or dizziness
- High fever in infants under 6 months of age

Calling 9-1-1 for a non-emergency situation ties up important lifelines. Help us ensure York Region paramedics will be available when needed most by calling 9-1-1 for emergencies only.

Remember to sanitize your hands and put on a mask or face covering before paramedics arrive if you are able.

For information visit york.ca/paramedics

SM4RT LIVING comes full circle

A circular economy eliminates waste and pollution and conserves resources. It is a mindset extending the life cycle of goods, food and resources through better design and continuous reuse, so nothing goes to waste.

In a circular economy, instead of industries, manufacturers and consumers using resources once and disposing of them, they stay in use. Product design is durable, reusable, repairable and recyclable. This circular shift reduces impact on the environment, allowing the earth's resources to recover and regenerate.

It's time to rethink the way we purchase, use and dispose of things and move to sharing, renting, repairing and repurposing them to prevent waste. It also means new and better government policies, manufacturing processes and business models to fully shape a circular economy.

The Region is working hard to further shift in a circular direction with new initiatives; this includes the development of:

- A network for circular-minded businesses and community leaders to advise, collaborate and inspire change
- Strategies to reduce single use items, working with businesses, accessibility groups and residents to find flexible solutions to work for all
- A roadmap to identify opportunities to integrate the circular economy into Regional operations, programs and policies

To learn more about the circular economy and how you can get involved visit york.ca/circulareconomy

What is SM4RT LIVING?

York Region's Integrated Waste Management Master Plan, known as the SM4RT Living Plan, is committed to the "4Rs":

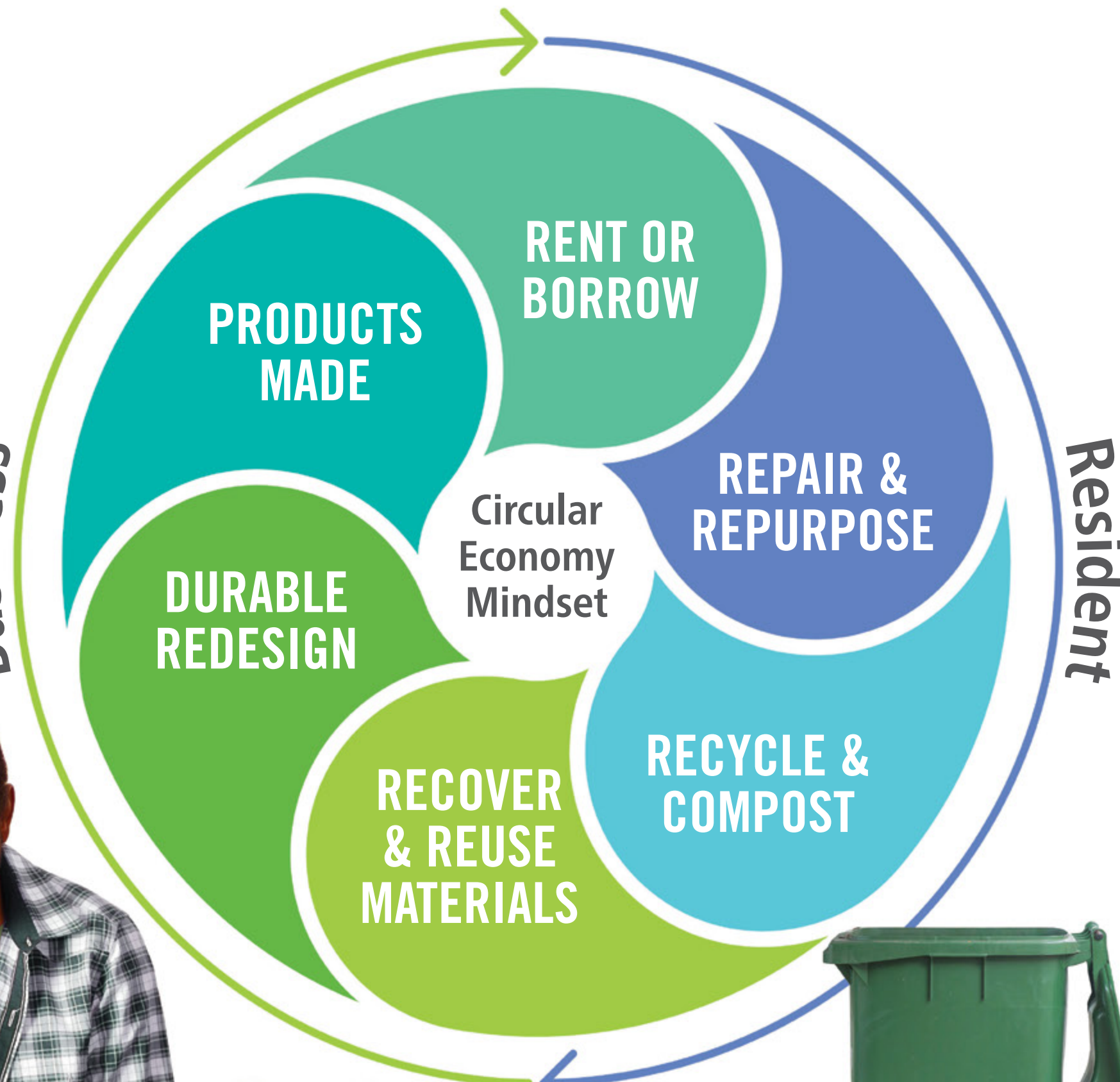
- **REDUCE** waste through initiatives such as Curbside Giveaway Days and Repair Café's
- **REUSE** items or borrow household items through the Lendery at the library
- **RECYCLE** material into new products through textile recycling and clothing donation bins
- **RECOVER** energy from waste

Learn more at york.ca/sm4rtliving



Business

Resident



Really SM4RT LIVING

SM4RT Living programs help speed the adoption of consumer trends like buying second-hand, repairing instead of replacing items, renting or sharing instead of purchasing and choosing durable products with minimal packaging.



Repair Cafés are free repair events where volunteer fixers bring your broken items back to life. For more information visit york.ca/repaircafe



The Good Food program provides tips and tools to help reduce food waste at home. For more information visit york.ca/goodfood



A Lendery is like a library where you sign out things rather than books – things you need at the moment but don't need to own. For more information visit york.ca/lendery



Curbside Giveaway Days is an easy way to give away reusable items within your community. For more information visit york.ca/curbsidegiveaway

Senior-level action

The Canadian government's plan to ban plastic checkout bags, cutlery, hard-to-recycle food ware, flexible ring carriers, stir sticks and straws may take effect in 2023.

The Ontario government is making producers that design, make and sell products/packaging responsible for blue box services and managing the waste they create.



We appreciate your feedback

The 2021 Draft Region Official Plan was released in November 2021. Thank you for your input into the development of the draft and providing feedback since its release. Gathering feedback from people living and working in York Region

is an important part of the process as the Region Official Plan helps shape the quality of life in existing and future communities.

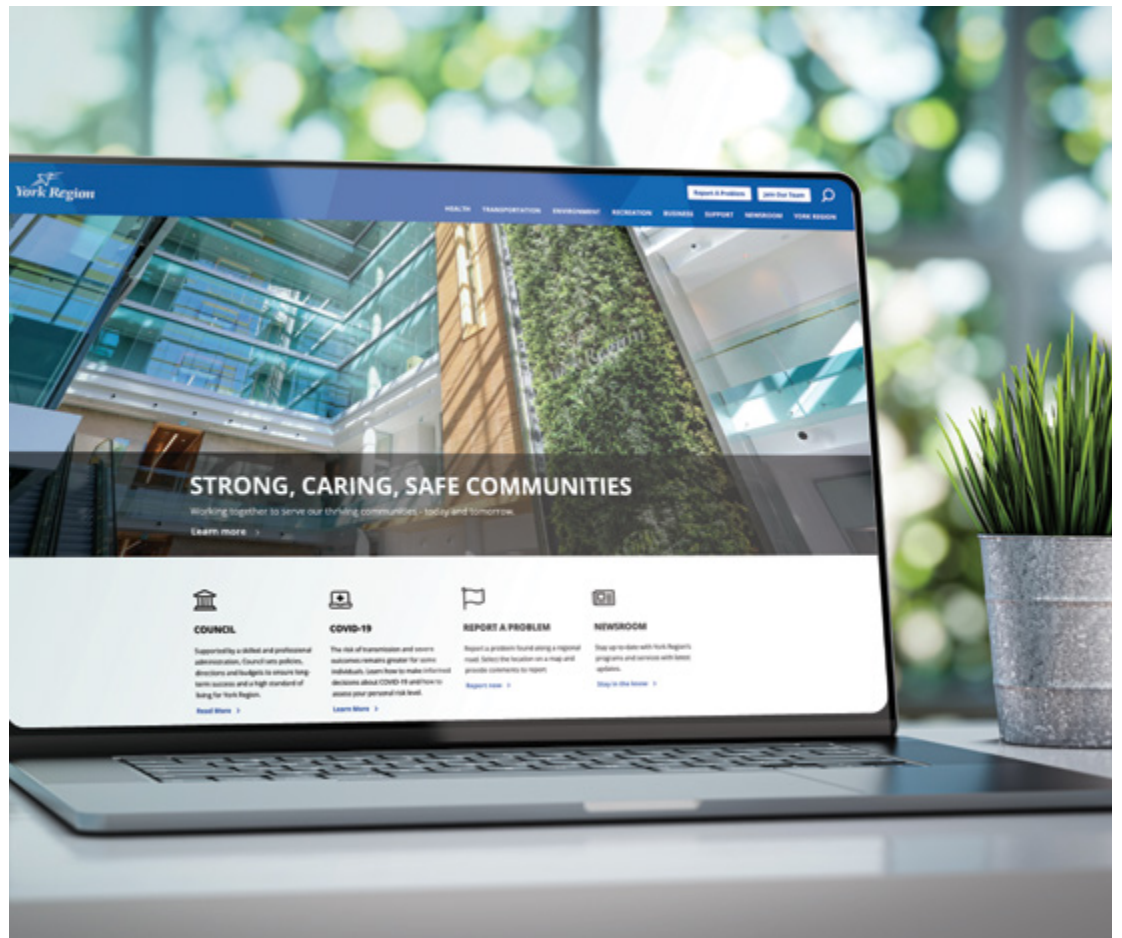
Visit york.ca/haveyoursay to learn more about the York Region Official Plan.

Building our communities with development charges

York Region is updating its development charges bylaw. Development charges are fees collected from developers, generally at the time of a building permit, to help fund vital infrastructure including water and wastewater, roads, police and transit to support growth across our cities and towns. The 2022 bylaw includes the Region's share of the Yonge North Subway Extension.

The updated bylaw also includes policies to help facilitate a mix and range of housing options and is expected to come into effect on June

For more information visit york.ca/developmentcha



Introducing a new york.ca

Your destination for York Region's programs and services

Out with the old and in with the new! York Region's corporate website has a fresh new feel, offering a fully accessible, enhanced customer experience to residents looking to access York Region's programs and services.

- **Report a Problem:** Easily report problems on Regional roads, complete with location coordinates and the option to include a photo
- **COVID-19:** Stay informed on the latest COVID-19 guidance
- **Bindicator:** Quickly determine how to sort your waste or where to take unwanted and recyclable items
- **Jobs:** Find York Region's latest job postings and sign up for regular job alerts
- **Regional Council:** See agendas and listen live
- **Programs and Services:** Learn about the programs and services available to create strong, safe, caring communities
- **News and Events:** Stay informed on the latest news and announcements

Visit york.ca today and let us know what you think at york.ca/feedback





\$2.7 billion + **\$980 million**
Operating costs Capital costs

\$3.7 billion

York Region 2022 budget: Your tax dollars at work

York Region's 2022 budget is \$3.7 billion. This budget is the fourth and final year of the Region's 2019-2022 multi-year budget, aligning with the current term of Regional Council. It supports York Region's four key priority areas of the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results. The budget includes operating

expenditures of \$2.7 billion to support the delivery of programs and services, and an investment of \$980 million in infrastructure projects as part of York Region's 10-year capital plan.

The budget includes a tax increase of 1.96% and a new 1% Rapid Transit Infrastructure Levy that will raise approximately \$12

million per year to help pay for the Region's \$1.12 billion contribution to the Yonge North Subway Extension. Combined, this represents an increase of approximately \$77 on the Regional tax levy for homes with an average assessed value of \$802,000.

In September 2021, Regional Council approved a financial plan that will ensure

resources are in place to maintain the Region's water and wastewater systems in a good state of repair and ensure the safe delivery of services. The financial plan includes annual increases of 3.3% in York Region's wholesale water and wastewater rates for the next six years, with the first increase taking

effect April 1, 2022. This increase may impact your municipality's water and wastewater rate. Please contact your town or city for questions about your water bill.

Visit york.ca/budget to learn more about York Region's budget.



Road work ahead: Drive slowly and safely

Construction season is here. The weeks and months ahead are busy times for road work with most projects completed during the warmer weather.

Construction season also means slowing down, adjusting your commute and planning ahead for route changes. Speed limits are reduced in construction zones to protect road workers and travellers.

Drivers, please help keep construction workers and other travellers safe by:

- Slowing down
- Giving workers plenty of space
- Paying attention to signs
- Watching for pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders
- Leaving earlier to reach your destination

Posted signs will show where fines for speeding are doubled.

York Region invests in the transportation network to ensure residents have access to well-built roads, a variety of walking and cycling amenities and reliable public transit service.

Projects underway this year involve repairs, road widening and intersection improvements. Projects

accommodate growth and focus on traveller safety. Road widening projects underway include:

- Keele Street from Steeles Avenue to Highway 407 ETR, City of Vaughan
- Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 400 to Jane Street, City of Vaughan
- Rutherford Road from Jane Street to Westburne Drive, City of Vaughan

- Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane, Town of Newmarket, Town of East Gwillimbury

Visit york.ca/roadconstruction for a list of all Regional road construction projects occurring this year.

Stay up to date on road projects and traffic impacts by following @YorkRegionGovt on Twitter and Facebook