



Thursday, April 17, 2014

York Regional Council – April 17, 2014

York Regional Council observes moment of silence in honour of Jim Flaherty

Members of York Regional Council today observed a moment of silence on the passing of former federal finance minister Jim Flaherty.

On behalf of York Region and York Regional Council, York Region Chairman Bill Fisch expressed condolences in his memory and acknowledged his important contributions and support to York Region.

City of Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath appointed to
Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors

York Regional Council today nominated City of Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors. Councillor Heath replaces Town of Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Brenda Hogg on the Board of Directors.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters falling within federal jurisdiction.

York Region recognizes Public Works Week and National Paramedic Services Week this May

Often the unsung heroes of snowstorms, watermain breaks and providing clean drinking water, York Region Public Works employees promote health, safety and quality of life for our residents. To recognize their contributions, York Regional Council recognizes May 18 to 24 as National Public Works Week.

Council will also recognize National Paramedic Services Week from May 25 to 31 to celebrate the contributions of dedicated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff who protect the health, safety and well-being of York Region residents and visitors. Activities during this week will also promote injury prevention and what to do in the event of a medical emergency.

A Family Fun Day event in celebration of both weeks will take place Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at York Region's Transportation Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

A number of other activities are planned to mark both celebrations and further details will be available at www.york.ca or in newspaper ads in the coming weeks.

English as a Second Language (ESL) week is October 12 to 18

York Regional Council will recognize English as a Second Language (ESL) week from October 12 to 18. This province-wide initiative raises awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities for newcomers to Canada. York Region was one of 56 municipalities who recognized ESL Week in 2013.

Caribbean Cultural Month upcoming this August

York Regional Council will recognize the month of August as Caribbean Cultural Month. This occasion celebrates the Caribbean and provides historical and cultural learning opportunities for residents.

More than 92,000 York Region residents benefited from Community Investment Strategy in 2013

More than 92,000 York Region residents benefited from important community programs and services funded through The Regional Municipality of York Community Investment Strategy.

The Community Investment Strategy funds projects aligned with Regional priorities and complements services provided by York Region's Community and Health Services Department. The strategy supports community agencies under three funding streams: community-based services, innovation and collaboration and organizational development.

A summary of the [2013 Community Investment Strategy projects](#) is available online at www.york.ca and the Region is now accepting applications for 2015 funding projects at www.york.ca/cis until May 8, 2014.

Fight the Bite! of mosquitos and ticks this season

The Regional Municipality of York will begin the 2014 vector-borne disease program this May to monitor West Nile virus and Lyme disease activity, promote public awareness and provide mosquito control.

Vector-borne diseases are transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito or tick. Colder weather contributed to a decline in West Nile virus activity in 2013 with York Region reporting one confirmed human case and 16 positive mosquito pools.

York Region has budgeted \$543,000 for the 2014 vector-borne disease program with 75 per cent of funding anticipated from the Province of Ontario. Larviciding, the primary method for reducing mosquitos through treatment of roadside catch basins, will be completed four times during mosquito season.

York Region's Fight the Bite! education campaign encourages prevention and protection as the best way to guard against vector-borne diseases. A Fight the Bite! video is available on [YouTube](#).

For more information on this or any other public-health related topic, please contact York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or TTY 1-866-252-9933. More information is also available on www.york.ca/westnile and www.york.ca/lymedisease

Community paramedicine project trial continues

York Regional Council today received an update on the Emergency Medical Services Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (EPIC) project trial. Currently 226 patients are enrolled with 110 patients receiving care from community paramedics.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is supporting the development of community paramedicine, announcing \$6 million in funding in January 2014. York Region EMS is awaiting application process direction to apply for funds under this announcement.

The EPIC trial continues to provide in-home care to enrolled residents with chronic diseases including diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure. The project will be evaluating whether in-home treatments such as assessing blood pressure, doing blood work and administering certain medications may result in fewer transports by EMS to hospital for these patients.

York Region job postings provide insight into economic activity

York Regional Council today received an update of job posting trends across the Region in 2013. An important measure of economic activity within York Region, this analysis provides insight into the number of postings, positions available, in-demand occupations and key hiring employers.

Between January and December 2013:

- More than 42,000 jobs were posted by York Region employers, representing a healthy, local job market
- 87 per cent of positions advertised were for full-time employment – higher than the national average of 82 per cent
- Close to 80 per cent of positions offered permanent employment

As part of the Economic Development Action Plan, the Region's Economic Strategy branch works with employers in the Region to help create a viable and advantageous businesses environment. Developed to complement the local municipal economic strategies already in place, the plan benefits residents and businesses across the Region.

For information on York Region's Economic Development Action Plan, please visit www.investinyork.ca

Transportation Tomorrow Survey shows more people using transit to get around than ever before

York Regional Council today received the [2011 Transportation Tomorrow Survey report](#) showing an increasing number of York Region residents are relying on transit to get to and from work and school.

The survey is completed every five years to correspond with the national census.

Among the survey's main findings:

- Transit use is increasing at a faster rate than population growth
- Since 1996, the number of transit trips per person has increased by over 40 per cent
- Intra-municipal trips in York Region are increasing
- More York Region residents work within the Region

The Transportation Tomorrow Survey is a comprehensive source of travel data used since 1986 to analyze and understand travel behaviour in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

OMB approves first phase of York Region's Official Plan hearing in north Markham

York Regional Council today received the [Ontario Municipal Board \(OMB\) decision](#) dismissing appeals to Phase I of its OMB hearing related to the *Regional Official Plan* (ROP 2010) in north Markham (Regional Official Plan Amendment 3).

The appeal challenged some of the Region's urban expansion area in north Markham as unachievable and not in keeping with the provincial growth plan.

In dismissing the appeal to Phase I, the OMB stated the Region overwhelmingly complied with the density requirements of the provincial growth plan and met the objectives to build compact and complete communities and to optimize use of lands.

York Regional Council endorses provincial review of land use plans

York Regional Council today endorsed a [report](#) on the provincial review of the *Greenbelt Plan*, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* and the *Places to Grow – Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*.

The report provides Council with an overview of the upcoming provincial review of the Region's growth plans, summarizes consultation undertaken by Regional staff and outlines preliminary input the province should consider as they begin their review.

The Region is encouraging the province to be aware of the following areas:

- Providing for agricultural viability and a strong rural economy
- Providing infrastructure, including the relationship with growth plan policies
- Managing fill
- Meeting the need for strategic employment lands in the long term
- Reconciling provincial legislation
- Facilitating consistent implementation, including definitions and policy interpretation
- Locating community services and facilities

York Regional Council receives *Provincial Policy Statement* on land use and planning

York Regional Council today received the [Provincial Policy Statement](#) which provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use, planning and development. The *Provincial Policy Statement* sets the foundation for regulating the development and use of land.

York Region participated and provided comments on the Province's process to review the *Provincial Policy Statement*, which takes effect April 30. Some of the Region's recommended changes were incorporated into the *Provincial Policy Statement*, including permitting planning for long-term protection of employment areas beyond 20 years.

York Regional Council receives report on 2013 planning and engineering development activity

York Regional Council today received a [report](#) summarizing planning and engineering development activity Regional staff engaged in throughout 2013. These include: Regional Official Plan Amendments (ROPAs), local Official Plan Amendments (OPAs), plans of subdivision and condominium, site plans and engineering approvals.

Activities in 2013 included:

- The Development Review Committee reviewed 289 new and revised development proposals in 2013, remaining strong over the previous year
- The Director of Community Planning issued decisions/reported on 27 Official Plan Amendment applications compared to 35 in 2012
- Comments and conditions of draft plan approval were issued for 79 plans of subdivision and condominium, totalling 12,428 residential units
- The Region-wide housing mix for 2013 shows an increase in draft approved high-rise condominium/apartment units from 2012 exceeding all ground-related units

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, May 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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