

SPRING 2021

YORK REGION MATTERS



Connect with us at:
yrmatters@york.ca
1-877-464-9675
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York Region's
2021 Budget **P2**

YORK REGION MATTERS



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MESSAGE FROM YORK REGION CHAIRMAN AND CEO

COVID-19 continues to impact every aspect of York Region's communities. Our residents and businesses are tired, but you are all making a difference in stopping the spread of COVID-19. The vaccine rollout across York Region started two weeks earlier than provincially planned, enabling us to move to prioritized demographics, faster. Now is not the time to give up. Please, when you are able, register for and receive the vaccine.

While the pandemic remains top-of-mind, York Region continues to provide services our residents rely on. This edition highlights a few, including the recent budget, road construction and ways to take care of your property.

Over the coming months, please stay safe, stay home and above all, continue to follow Public Health measures.

Wayne Emmerson



Wayne Emmerson
York Region Chairman
and CEO

ON THE COVER



York Regional Council approved \$3.3 billion 2021 budget ensures York Region continues building and maintaining vital infrastructure while providing critical services to more than 1.2 million residents.

The 2021 budget includes a net tax levy increase of 1.54%, representing an increase of approximately \$40 for homes with an

average assessed value of \$802,000. The approved increase is a reduction of 1.42% from the initial outlook tabled on February 25, 2021.

The 1.54% tax levy will be directed to Regional capital reserves designated to support the Region's robust 10-year capital plan. This includes funding for new infrastructure to support growth, as well as funding to maintain and replace the Region's existing assets.

York Region continues to identify internal operational efficiencies and improvements, while making full use of almost \$38 million in recent Safe Restart

Agreement funding from the federal and provincial governments.

In early March the province announced York Region would receive \$21.1 million to help cover COVID-19 operating costs and \$16.7 million for transit-related impacts.

For additional information, visit york.ca/budget



Tell us what you think

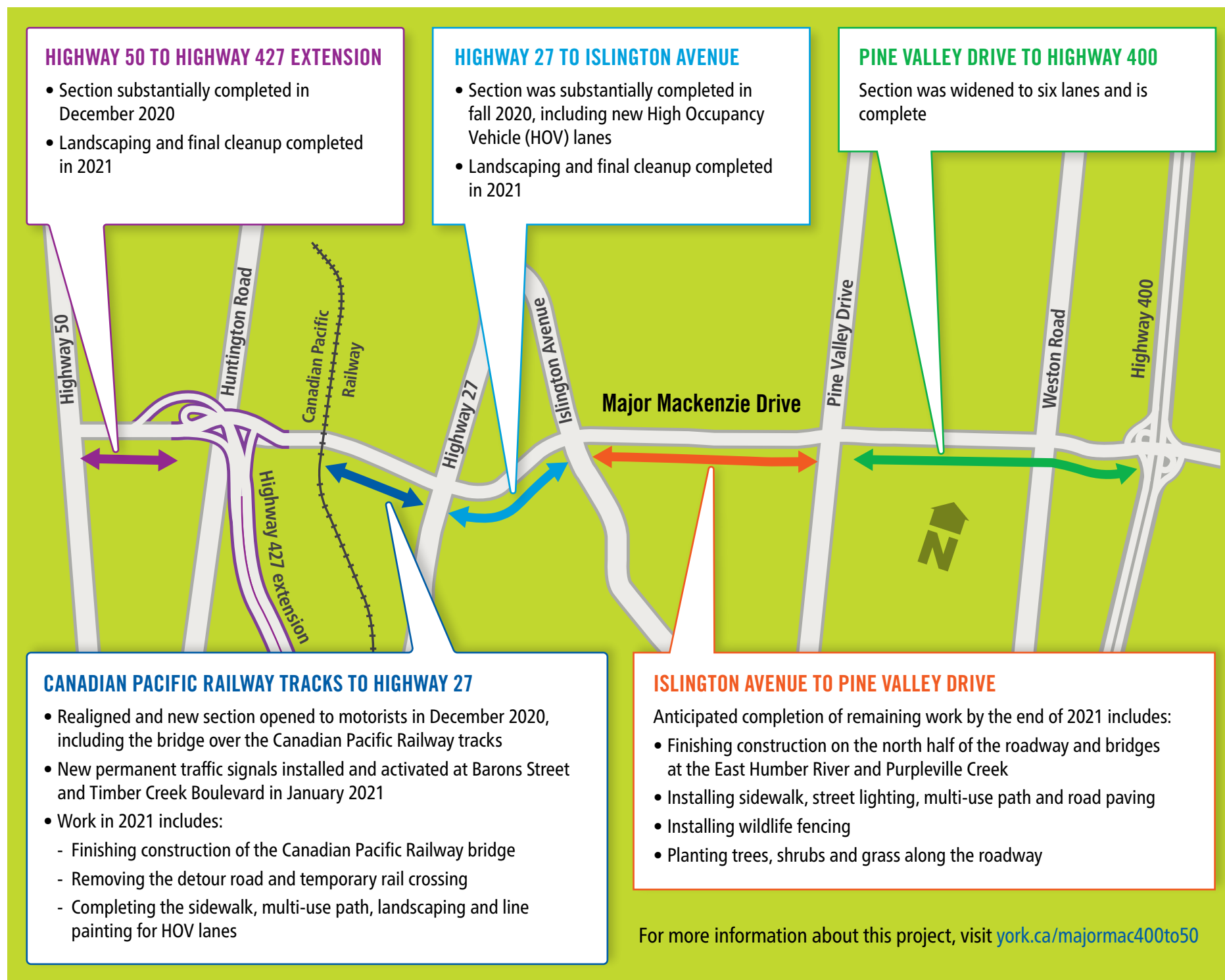
We always look for ways to enhance our publication and include information you are interested in.

For a chance to win a \$50 gift card from a local business in your community, tell us what you think about this edition

and what you would like to see in the future at york.ca/yorkregionmatters

New ways to travel on Major Mackenzie Drive

York Region is improving Major Mackenzie Drive from Highway 50 to Highway 400 in the City of Vaughan to accommodate growth, improve traffic flow and provide more travel options



For more information about this project, visit york.ca/majormac400to50

Protect your trees

European gypsy moth/*Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) infestation predicted this spring/summer for many areas in southern Ontario

Our trees are at risk of heavy to severe defoliation when LDD populations reach outbreak levels. Forested areas can be affected, but urban trees such as street trees and those on private property are at most risk.

Are your trees at risk?

Most healthy trees can withstand several years of severe defoliation. LDD caterpillars prefer oak tree leaves but will also eat leaves from other tree species including maple, elm, birch, poplar and willow trees. In some cases, they feed on evergreens including pine and spruce. In high numbers, LDD caterpillars can be a nuisance leaving droppings and bits of foliage on decks and walkways near infested trees.

What you can do

Spring

Prior to caterpillars hatching, egg masses can be scraped off of trees into a bucket of soapy water for a day or two then disposed of.

Spring/summer

Caterpillars can be handpicked. Burlap, available at your local hardware store, can be placed on trees with string to trap the caterpillars making them easier to collect. Caterpillars can then be removed from the burlap and placed in a bucket of soapy water for a day or two then disposed of. If trees are severely infested, an insecticide may be considered a viable option. Homeowners should contact a licensed tree care company to discuss the best options.

Visit york.ca/LDDmoth for more information.

SAFETY TIP:

Always wear gloves when handling caterpillars and egg masses to avoid an allergic reaction





Help create a transportation network

York Region's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) looks at transportation options for the next 30 years, considering population and employment growth across the Region's nine cities and towns. The approach supports healthy communities and economic growth by planning for safe and reliable travel by all modes and efficient movement of goods.

The way you travel and your views on how transportation can best serve your community are important to developing the plan. We wish to learn whether your travel patterns for work, school

or personal reasons have changed or may evolve in the future resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic or other reasons.

The next TMP update will be presented to York Regional Council in 2022. Residents and business operators will be engaged throughout 2021 to help inform the plan.

Visit york.ca/TMP to stay informed, join conversations and play a role in creating a transportation network that works for you, your community and generations to come.



PREVENTING COVID-19 SPREAD

We all have a responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

The good news is the majority of businesses and customers in York Region are following COVID-19 safety measures and protocols.

York Region's Public Health Inspectors help protect the health and safety of our communities by providing consultation, education and public health expertise to businesses and their customers.

As members of the York Region COVID-19 enforcement task force under the *Reopening Ontario Act*, inspectors are required to educate and enforce COVID-19 related regulations. Charges and closures are posted weekly on york.ca/COVID19 under Enforcing COVID-19 Regulations.

Thank you to all businesses and residents who are helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please do your part and continue to follow all public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Tree planting programs

Your yard can be a place where you go to rest, relax and get away from it all. It's where you can make memories that last a lifetime. Make your yard amazing this spring with these inspirational tips.

Get a tree for less

Find the perfect tree for your yard and get expert advice for tree care. Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) offers native Ontario trees at a reduced cost; they'll even plant it for you.

Replace a lost tree

Have you lost or are you losing an ash tree due to emerald ash borer? You could save \$100 by buying a new tree through LEAF to replace dying, dead or removed ash trees. Restrictions apply.

Find resources and more to help make your yard the perfect getaway spot at york.ca/loveyouryard





Planning for the future

York Region is anticipated to grow to approximately 2 million residents and 1 million jobs by 2051.

It's important our growing communities contain a range of housing types for people of all ages and abilities, and there is a more affordable match between housing supply and demand.

For this reason and many more, York Region continues work on a Municipal Comprehensive Review to update the Regional Official Plan.

We want to hear your ideas during our review process. Our next phase of consultation is focused

on housing and growth management. Your feedback is very important. Share how you want York Region to look and feel in the years to come as we plan to accommodate anticipated population growth in a sustainable way.

Let us know your ideas about housing types that could be included in our growing communities. Visit york.ca/haveyoursay to join the conversation about our communities and how we grow. To learn more about our Municipal Comprehensive Review and how your feedback can help build tomorrow's Region, please visit york.ca/mcr

Staying safe after vaccination

If you have already received a COVID-19 vaccine, you may be wondering if you can gather with your loved ones and return to your "normal" routines. While vaccines will help bring an end to the pandemic, following public health guidelines are still required after receiving a vaccination.

Although the vaccine is very effective at preventing infection or serious illness, there is still a chance you can contract COVID-19, and it's currently unknown if you can transmit the virus after being immunized.

Please:

- Stay home as much as possible and limit close contact with those outside your household
- Practice physical distancing of at least 2 metres with those outside your household
- Wear a face mask or covering when inside public places and when physical distancing cannot be maintained

- Wash or sanitize your hands thoroughly and often
- Practice respiratory etiquette
- To ensure everyone who wants a vaccine receives one safely and quickly, it's important to get vaccinated as soon as you are able; vaccination is our key to resuming normal life

For more information, visit york.ca/covid19vaccineInfo



Challenge yourself to waste less food and save more

Good Food CHALLENGE

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to stay home and limit trips to stores has been crucial to keeping our families safe and healthy. With fewer trips out, many people have been stocking up on food. When these items aren't used, it means wasted food and money.

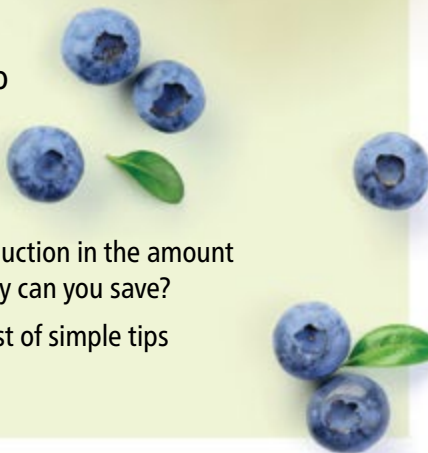
Over the past year, green bin waste in York Region has increased by 20% with estimates showing households throw away roughly \$1,500 each year in wasted food.

Top 10 tips to reduce food waste

1. **Shop** your kitchen; prepare meals using what you have first before buying more ingredients
2. **Plan** before you shop and use a grocery list
3. **Include** leftovers in your plan; save leftovers for lunch or another dinner
4. **Store** your groceries and leftovers properly; freeze items you won't be using immediately
5. **Avoid** over-portioning your plate; plated food not eaten ends up in the green bin
6. **Organize** your pantry and refrigerator so items don't get lost or forgotten near the back
7. **Label** items with the 'date opened' so you know how long they've been there
8. **Practice** First In, First Out; make sure older items are used first
9. **Choose** local, farm fresh produce and products which are fresher and last longer
10. **Compost** at home, turning kitchen scraps into a nutrient-rich addition for your gardens

By challenging yourself to follow these tips you'll see a reduction in the amount of food going to waste. How much money, time and energy can you save?

You can start now by downloading our Good Food checklist of simple tips at york.ca/goodfood



Fast (and healthy!) meals for busy families

Healthy eating is always vital to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Staying home during the pandemic has made it easy to drift into poor eating habits.

Planning will help you prepare healthy meals and snacks. Cook more food than you need for the next lunch or supper and use leftovers creatively:

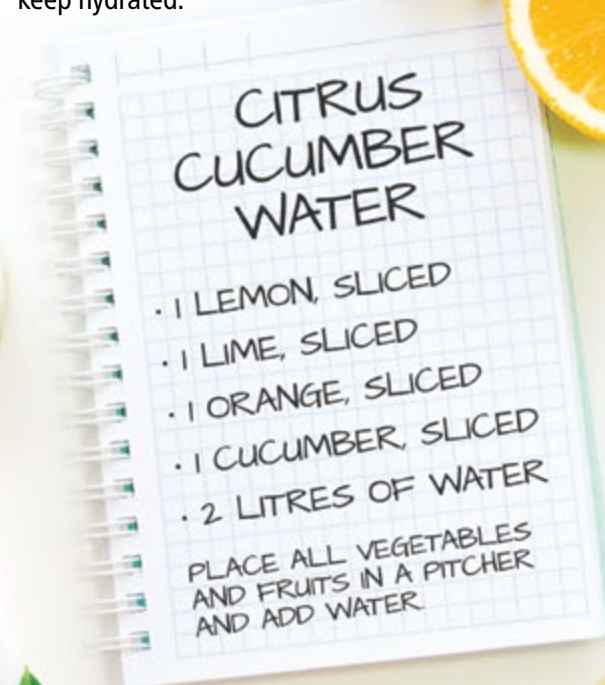
- Use extra vegetables in frittata, pasta sauce, soup or in a wrap with hummus
- Cook a double batch of brown rice; make stir-fried rice, add to soups, use for congee or make rice pudding
- Roast a whole chicken; use in casseroles and soups, make chicken salad for lunches or add slices to a green salad

Like good food, drinking water is important for our health. Our bodies lose water by sweating, breathing and getting rid of waste and we need to replace what is lost.

Tap water is a great way to stay hydrated and quench thirst without consuming the sugar found in sweet drinks.

York Region provides clean, safe and reliable drinking water.

Try this refreshing citrus cucumber water to keep hydrated:



Find more information on healthy eating at york.ca/goodfood

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request
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For a pdf copy, please visit york.ca/yorkregionmatters