



Thursday, November 13, 2014

## York Regional Council – November 13, 2014

### **York Regional Council offers condolences, acknowledges passing of former Mayor Margaret Britnell**

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch acknowledged the recent passing of Margaret Britnell, former Township of King Mayor and member of York Regional Council. Ms. Britnell served in this capacity for 14 years between 1973 and 1994.

In addition to her political career, the Chairman also highlighted Ms. Britnell's dedication to various community organizations including the Children's Aid Society and the Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority.

An active member of her community and York Regional Council, Ms. Britnell passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2014. Chairman Fisch offered condolences on behalf of Regional Council to the family and friends of Margaret Britnell.

### **York Regional Council recognizes two fallen soldiers**

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch shared condolences on behalf of Regional Council for the recent passing of two Canadian soldiers.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, killed October 20, and Cpl. Nathan Frank Cirillo of Hamilton, killed October 22.

Both men were recognized for their contributions and loss of their lives while protecting our country. Condolences were shared on behalf of Regional Council to the family and friends of the fallen soldiers.

### **York Region Chairman highlights Council's achievements**

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch highlighted the achievements of York Regional Council over the past four years, commending the dedication and collaboration of Council members and staff in their efforts to make York Region an enviable place to live, work and enjoy.

Chairman Fisch highlighted some of the major accomplishments of this Council, including important strides to improve affordable housing and approval of the Region's 10-Year Housing Plan, completing the expansion of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, continuing to grow transit ridership and opening the first two sections of new Viva rapidway on Highway 7, in partnership with York Region Rapid Transit Corporation.

Chairman Fisch also addressed the contributions of the following outgoing Regional Council members:

- Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson; 17 years as a member of Regional Council and Mayor
- Town of Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi; 17 years as a member of Regional Council and Mayor
- Councillor Gordon Landon, City of Markham; 23 years as a member of Regional Council
- Councillor Deb Schulte, City of Vaughan; four years as a member of Regional Council

## **November 13 named as Bill Fisch Day in honour of retiring York Region Chairman and CEO**

York Regional Council members voted unanimously today to name November 13, 2014, as Bill Fisch Day to honour and recognize the longest serving Chairman in York Region for his dedicated public service career.

City of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti brought forward the motion, which was seconded by Town of Georgina Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler and unanimously passed by all Council members.

## **Council recognizes outgoing Chairman Bill Fisch for 17 years of service**

Recognizing his upcoming retirement after serving 17 years as York Region Chairman and CEO, every member of York Regional Council offered personal tributes and thanks to Chairman Fisch for his leadership and dedication to the betterment of York Region.

To further their appreciation, Council voted unanimously to name November 13, 2014, as Bill Fisch Day in York Region.

Following a career as a practicing lawyer, Chairman Fisch first ran as a Town of Markham Ward Councillor in 1988. In 1994, Bill Fisch became a Regional Councillor, and from December 1997 to 2014 has served as Chairman and CEO.

During his tenure, the Chairman and Council faced many challenges and opportunities related to rapid growth, seeing the Region's population grow from 614,000 in 1997 to more than 1.1 million today. Prudent fiscal management was a top priority during growth, with the budget growing from \$242 million in 1997 to over \$3 billion today.

Council members recounted personal highlights of their shared public service experience with the Chairman and wished him well in his upcoming retirement.

## **Home repair program expanded to low-income homeowners**

York Regional Council today approved updates to York Region's Home Repairs Program to allow more residents in need to apply for home repair financial assistance. The program is now open to eligible low-income homeowners in addition to seniors and people with disabilities.

This means those who have trouble making ends meet and can't afford important home repairs will be considered for funding so they can continue living in their own home.

In addition to expanding eligibility criteria, homeowners whose homes are valued at less than \$424,000 may now apply for funding more than once, up to a lifetime maximum grant of \$15,000 and a single award limit of \$7,500. This is an increase from the former one-time allowance of up to \$5,000.

Since the launch of the program in 2013, nearly 100 seniors and people with disabilities have benefitted from needed home repair assistance. Starting in 2015, homeowners can submit applications any time throughout the year for consideration. The Home Repair program operates on a first-come, first-served basis and funding is limited.

For more information on the Home Repairs Program, please visit [york.ca/communitysupport](http://york.ca/communitysupport) or email [homerepairs@york.ca](mailto:homerepairs@york.ca)

For more information, please [read the report](#).

## **YRT/Viva automated fare collection contract extended**

York Regional Council approved extending a contract with Cubic Transportation Systems, which operates YRT/Viva's automated fare collection central system and ticket vending machine software maintenance and support for a period of three years and 10 months starting February 1, 2015.

Cubic Transportation Services was the original supplier of the YRT/Viva automated fare collection equipment and has been providing software maintenance and support services since the launch of Viva in 2005.

For more information, please [read the report](#).

## **Community Investment Strategy funding will support 52 York Region community projects**

York Regional Council has approved approximately \$6.1 million in financial support to community agencies and projects under the Community Investment Strategy (CIS).

The CIS supports community agencies under three funding streams: community-based services, innovation and collaboration and organizational development. The strategy is specifically targeted to strengthening community services supporting low and moderate income residents living in York Region.

Applications for 2015 funding were released in spring 2014, generating a total of 110 proposals.

For more information, please [read the report](#).

## **York Works delivered to more than 360,000 homes and businesses starting this week**

York Regional Council today received copies of [York Works](#), a Regional publication being delivered to every home and business starting this week. Highlights of the fall 2014 edition of York Works include:

- Say Yes to York! York University has made a bid for a satellite campus in the City of Markham – and we need your support
- Check out the newest addition to the York Regional Forest, 55 hectares of land in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- A Safer Commute is your call - YRT/Viva is partnering with Crimestoppers to increase methods available to report criminal incidents

York Works is printed on 100 per cent recycled paper and is Forestry Stewardship Council of Canada certified.

## **Next meeting of York Regional Council**

The first meeting of York Regional Council for the term of office from December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2018 will take place Thursday, December 11 at 7 p.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket. Election of a new Regional Chairperson will take place at this meeting.

The next regular meeting of York Regional Council will take place Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers.

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