



York Regional Council – March 27, 2014

Town of Shelburne thanks York Region for being a good neighbour

Town of Shelburne Mayor Ed Crewson and Director of Public Works Scott Wheeldon presented York Regional Council with a certificate of appreciation, lapel pin and medal of honour for assisting the Town of Shelburne during its recent State of Emergency on January 31 and February 1 and 2 of this year when their streets were almost completely blocked by snow.

York Region sent a tractor with a large snow blower attachment to Shelburne on a float truck along with a York Region employee from the Roads branch to help out during the recovery effort in Shelburne. For three 12-hour days, York Region contributed to the clean-up by removing 432 truckloads of snow from the downtown area of Shelburne.

York Region receives top public works awards for excellence in three categories

The Ontario Public Works Association Board of Executive member Barry Kelly, Branch Liaison Director of Esri Canada Inc., presented York Regional Council with three Project-of-the-Year awards recognizing The Regional Municipality of York for demonstrating project excellence, outstanding quality and service. By award categories, the winning projects are:

- **Environment** - Uplands emergency sewer repair project
- **Structures** - Keswick Water Pollution Control Plant outfall expansion project
- **Disaster/Emergency Construction/Repair** - Emergency repair of Bayview Pumping Station West watermain project

York Region and York Regional Police employee campaign recognized by United Way York Region

United Way York Region CEO Daniele Zanotti presented York Regional Council with two awards recognizing the exceptional 2013 employee campaign of The Regional Municipality of York and York Regional Police:

- **The Employee Campaign Spirit Award** - for running exemplary campaigns, demonstrated by effective team coordination and successful planning
- **The York Region Community Spirit Award** - for achieving the largest contribution to the United Way York Region's Community Fund. This is the seventh consecutive year York Region has received the Community Spirit Award

In 2013, employees of York Region and York Regional Police raised \$432,102 for the community fund, exceeding the \$425,000 campaign goal by \$7,102. In the past 20 years, employees have raised more than \$2.5 million and helped 20,000 people in need.

Girl's Rights Week is April 28 - May 2

York Regional Council will recognize April 28 - May 2 as Girl's Rights Week.

Girl's Rights Week is an initiative of Girls Incorporated of York Region, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering girls and young women to seek the highest quality of life possible. The program enhances girls' confidence and self-esteem by giving them the skills and tools they need to be productive and contributing members of society.

York Region selects operator for Belinda's Place

York Regional Council today authorized the award of an operator agreement to The Governing Council of The Salvation Army of Canada for the setup and operation of Belinda's Place, an emergency and transitional housing facility for women.

The agreement was awarded for an initial term between April 18, 2014 and December 31, 2015, for a total cost not exceeding \$1,794,528 plus taxes.

Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler appointed to LSRCA Board

York Regional Council today appointed Town of Georgina Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors (LSRCA) for the remainder of the council term.

High risk small drinking water systems declining in York Region

York Region Public Health conducts inspections of non-residential small drinking water systems serving facilities such as churches, halls, arenas, trailer parks and camp grounds. The number of high risk systems has dropped substantially in recent years, from 53 identified in 2008 to six in February 2014.

Small drinking water systems are classified as high, moderate or low risk, based on factors affecting water safety. To address high risk locations, York Region Public Health increased the frequency of inspections and educated operators on options available to improve water safety. By building up a regular sampling history, receiving training and installing proper treatment devices, many operators have successfully improved the quality of their small water drinking systems.

Efforts to address remaining high risk systems are underway and ongoing.

More families benefiting from child care supports in York Region

The Regional Municipality of York has provided child care fee assistance to 1,200 additional children and increased access to Early Intervention Services for 600 children over the past five years through provincial funding.

Between 2009 and 2013, York Region received \$19.3 million in provincial funding linked to the Region's rapid growth. This funding helped the Region significantly increase child care supports to low and moderate-income families, including making improvements to the licensed child care system.

York Region will receive an additional \$7.4 million in provincial funding in 2014 to provide eligible families with increased access to child care and Early Intervention Services, as well as support child care operators with new equipment and training to further improve the quality of care for York Region families.

Home repair pilot program helps 63 families stay in their homes

The Regional Municipality of York Home Repairs for Independent Living pilot program helped 63 lower income seniors and disabled individuals stay in their homes by providing minor home repair grants last year.

Launched in 2013, the pilot program provides financial assistance to low and moderate income seniors and people with disabilities across all nine municipalities. The program's first phase awarded \$257,219 to 63 households to improve quality of life and mobility for the residents.

Examples of home improvements completed include:

- Ramp installations
- Installing porch lifts and interior stair lifts, grab bars, raised toilets, bathtub conversions to walk-in showers, lighting improvements and handrail installation for interior and exterior stairs
- Replacing furnaces
- Urgent repairs to roofs, windows and septic system repairs

Phase two of the pilot program will launch this spring and results evaluated to determine next steps. York Regional Council approved \$500,000 in funds for the program in November 2012.

For more information on the Home Repairs for Independent Living pilot program, please visit www.york.ca/communitysupport or email homerepairs@york.ca to be notified when applications for phase two are available.

The Regional Municipality of York provides new tool to assist local municipalities and the building industry in meeting density targets

York Regional Council today adopted new guidelines to assist the public, planners and the development industry in meeting *York Region Official Plan* requirements that new community areas in the Region are designed to meet or exceed a minimum density of 20 residential units per hectare and 70 residents and jobs per hectare.

York Region is striving to create compact and complete communities. The new guidelines will help to establish a calculation methodology to assess densities and community characteristics. This includes a consistent and accurate approach to measuring the *Regional Official Plan* density targets.

Equally important, the new guidelines help to inform discussion on building complete and compact communities and engage stakeholders on matters pertaining to planning for new communities in York Region.

York Region's Travel Alert App downloaded by 7,500 users during first year

The York Region Travel Alert App is being well received by York Region motorists. To date, there have been 7,500 downloads of the hands-free, smart phone application which uses voice alerts to inform motorists in real time of traffic issues on their travel route.

The app provides information such as collisions and construction activity, as well as alerts motorists when entering community safety and school zones that require a reduction in speed.

For more information on the York Region Travel Alert App, including download links and a promotional YouTube video, please visit www.york.ca/travelalert

York Region makes \$18 million additional investment in transit to keep people moving

York Regional Council today approved a contract to purchase 34 low-floor new conventional buses for The Regional Municipality of York's YRT/Viva fleet.

The 34 buses are being purchased from New Flyer Industries Canada at cost of \$521,000 each, for a total cost of \$18 million as part of York Region's joint bus procurement agreement with Metrolinx, the provincial government's transit agency. This procurement process with Metrolinx helps reduce the cost per bus and improves purchasing power for participant municipalities across Ontario.

There are currently 339 YRT conventional transit buses and 116 Viva bus rapid transit vehicles in the Region's transit fleet.

The new 12.2 metre long (40-foot) buses are expected to be delivered before the end of 2014.

York Region employment growth outpaces national and provincial averages in 2013

York Regional Council today received the [York Region Employment and Industry Report 2013](#) which shows as of mid-year 2013 York Region's economy is performing strongly.

Highlights include:

- York Region's economy had positive employment growth, increasing to 547,480 jobs in mid-year 2013
- York Region employment growth outpaced comparable growth for Canada and Ontario from 2012 to 2013 in:
 - manufacturing, wholesale trade, construction, transportation/warehousing
 - retail/personal services
 - business services
 - education and health services
- Major industry groups play a role in developing major economic clusters, including in information and communication technologies, life sciences, business and financial services and clean technology
- Small firms (one to 19 employees) accounted for the largest share of the Region's businesses at 83.6 per cent and employed 26.1 per cent of the Region's surveyed employment
- 73.8 per cent of employment was full-time, while 19.7 per cent consisted of part-time workers and 6.5 per cent were contract or seasonal

The Regional Municipality of York drinking water receives top marks in annual report

York Regional Council today received the 2013 Annual Drinking Water System Summary Report, including an overview of 37,300 water tests performed last year across all nine local municipalities. York Region achieved a perfect score of 100 per cent inspection rating for 2012 as well as 100 per cent for samples meeting provincial water quality standards.

As required under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, the Annual Drinking Water System Summary Report details water quality and quantity data, describing drinking water system investments and expenses.

A copy of the [Annual Drinking Water System Summary Report](#) is available online at www.york.ca under 'Environment.'

York Region takes a 'bough' with 2013 Greening Strategy achievements

In 2013, The Regional Municipality of York has increased the forest cover of the Region's total land area to 25 per cent, a top goal of the Region's Greening Strategy.

Additional achievements in 2013 include:

- Protected forest through securement of 120 hectares of land at three sites
- Leveraged partnerships and project funds, including collaborating with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) and generating \$1 million in additional funds
- Planted 45,000 trees and shrubs, including 24 hectares of new forest
- Increased resident participation in forest environmental education programs
- Celebrated planting of the one-millionth tree at the Maple Health Centre on National Tree Day

In 2014, York Region will continue its efforts in creating a sustainable natural environment with emphasis on reforestation efforts. To learn more about York Region's greening initiatives, please visit www.york.ca/forest

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, April 17 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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The Regional Municipality of York provides services to 1.1 million residents and 42,000 businesses that employ 533,000 people