

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

York Regional Council Highlights – April 18, 2019

Live streaming of the public session of Council and Committee of the Whole meetings is available on the day of the meeting from 9 a.m. until the close of the meeting. Past sessions are also available [here](#).

Region recognizes Earth Day and Earth Week

York Regional Council recognize April 22 as [Earth Day](#), a global movement which celebrates and supports environmental conservation, protection and education.

York Region is dedicated to protecting our environment now and for the future. This year the Region encourages staff and residents to go beyond Earth Day and consider some easy everyday actions to celebrate [Earth Week](#) all year long.

During April 22 to 26, the Region recognizes the great work taking place across the Region to support these everyday actions for a cleaner, healthier environment.

York Regional Council adopts Code of Conduct for its members

As part of The Regional Municipality of York's continued commitment to maintaining public confidence in Regional government, York Regional Council adopted a [Code of Conduct](#) for members of Regional Council.

The Council Code of Conduct was established to provide standards for behavioural and ethical expectations of conduct for the Regional Chair and Council in the capacity of their official duties.

York Regional Police Services Board extends appointment of Chief Jolliffe and appoints two new Deputy Chiefs

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board has [extended the appointment of Chief Eric Jolliffe](#) to April 30, 2020 to help support the succession plan for the future leadership of York Regional Police.

The Police Services Board has also announced the selection of Superintendent Brian Bigras and Superintendent James MacSween to serve as Deputy Chiefs of Police, effective May 15, 2019. Expanding the Executive Command Team to four Deputy Chiefs will provide stronger oversight of key policing areas, will support growth and help manage future trends and the complexities of a modern policing organization.

York Regional Council joins the Police Services Board in welcoming Superintendents Bigras and MacSween to their new roles.

York Region invests \$339 million in roads and transit

The Regional Municipality of York is investing \$339 million to expand and maintain roads and transit in 2019, an overall investment of \$2.8 billion over the next 10 years to increase the efficiency of the [Regional transportation network](#).

To support the Region’s growing communities, [construction](#) is planned for over 100 locations across the Region. These projects will include:

- Road reconstruction and widening
- Major bridge replacements and upgrades
- Intersection upgrades and improvements to enhance traffic operations
- Pavement repair, preservation and rehabilitation
- Transit terminal, station and bus stop repairs and improvements

In addition to construction and rehabilitation improvements, the Region will also invest in fleet and facility projects that contribute to the Regional transportation network. These projects include the construction of a new bus terminal, an expansion of a bus garage and a new snow management facility. The Region will also invest in 21 new buses to service our transit fleet.

In 2018, \$217 million was invested in the Regional road network, improving travel opportunities for all road users, including road widenings, a newly constructed crossing over Highway 404 north of Highway 7, additional 19 lane-kilometres of road and 33 kilometres of cycling lanes plus an enhanced suite of transit services.

Speed limits reduced on Regional roads

York Regional Council has approved bylaws to [reduce speed limits](#) on a number of Regional roads.

Effective immediately, the following roads will have reduced speed limits:

- [Bathurst Street from Davis Drive West to 300 meters north of Davis Drive West](#) - 80 km/h to 60 km/h
- [Bathurst Street from north of Davis Drive West to North of Green Lane West](#) - 80 km/h to 70 km/h
- [Stouffville Road from east of Bayview Avenue to east of Gormley Road East](#) – 70 km/h to 60 km/h

Monitoring and adjusting speed limits is one of many measures York Region has in place to increase the safety of commuters, cyclists and pedestrians who use Regional roads. To notify travellers of the speed limit changes, “new” signs will be posted above speed limit signs at the beginning of each changed speed zone.

I Count, I’m Not Just a Number – A Profile on Homelessness In York Region

York Regional Council received an update on the [results of the first province-wide count](#) of homelessness and learned at least 389 people are experiencing homelessness in our Region.

During a four-day period in April 2018, York Region mobilized citizen volunteers, community organizations and staff to conduct a homeless count called [I Count – I'm not just a number](#). Results from the count are intended to serve as a snapshot and reflect a minimum number of people who are experiencing homelessness in York Region.

The main reasons respondents indicate they are experiencing homelessness include,

- Family conflict (25%)
- Job loss (16%)
- Illness/condition or medical treatment (15%)
- Inability to pay rent or mortgage (14%)
- Addiction, substance use, mental health or domestic abuse (13%)

Findings from the Region's *I Count* study are informing investments in program delivery and actions in the updates of York Region's 10 Year Housing Plan: [Housing Solutions: A place for everyone](#).

Region's new Forest Management Plan outlines balanced approach to protecting our natural landscape

York Regional Council received an update on a [new long-term plan](#) for protection and use of the [York Regional Forest](#). The York Regional Forest includes 23 tracts of about 2,400 hectares of protected land.

[It's in our Nature: Management Plan for the York Regional Forest 2019 to 2038](#) outlines a vision, achievable through the following three goals and key actions:

1. Strengthen Ecological Integrity

Continue to strengthen the health, diversity, resiliency and sustainability of the York Regional Forest

2. Foster an Understanding of the Broader Benefits

Demonstrate the Forest provides a wealth of environmental and social benefits, key to the Region's vision of healthy, thriving communities

3. Inspire People

Encourage public use that inspires respect for the Forest and a connection with nature

York Region drew from a wide range of expertise and technical advice, and engaged the community through several open houses and surveys to develop the plan.

The previous Forest Management Plan from 1998 to 2018 guided the Region through many accomplishments including becoming the first public forest in Canada to achieve [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) certification in 2000. It is recognized for excellence in forest management, invasive species management, accessible trails and public programs.

Vector-Borne disease program annual update

The Regional Municipality of York begins its [2019 vector-bore disease program](#) this May to limit the impact of vector-borne diseases including West Nile virus, Lyme disease and Zika virus.

Vector-borne diseases are transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected vector, such as a mosquito or tick. Ontario Public Health units manage these diseases in accordance with the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) and the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#).

In 2018, 16 mosquito traps tested positive for West Nile virus and three human cases were reported. Twenty eight blacklegged ticks were found at high risk locations with one tick testing positive for *Borellia burgdorferi*, which causes Lyme disease.

Residents are reminded about the importance of protecting themselves and their family. Follow these simple tips if heading outdoors:

- Wear light-colored clothes and long-sleeved tops to help spot ticks and deter mosquitos
- Clean up standing water around your home where mosquitos like to breed (flower pots, old tires, tin cans, pool covers)
- Choose closed toe footwear
- Use insect repellent containing DEET
- Search your body for ticks, especially through the groin, scalp, back and underarm areas
- [Remove attached ticks](#) from your body as quickly as possible and report to York Region Public Health.

2018 Paramedic response time performance plan final results

York Regional Council received an update on the final results from the [2018 Paramedic Response Time Performance Plan](#) and York Region Paramedic Services are continuing to exceed targets despite a 6.1% increase in demand.

Targets for emergency medical response times are legislated by the province and set annually by York Regional Council. The performance plan outlines acceptable response time between when a call is made to 9-1-1 and when paramedics arrive at an emergency.

York Region Paramedics exceeded response time targets for sudden cardiac arrests thanks in part to the support from local municipal fire services. Response time for sudden cardiac arrest is measured based on the arrival of any person who can provide defibrillation (CPR or AED).

In 2018, York Region Paramedic Services responded to 83,204 incidents, up from 78,407 incidents in 2017. Since 2001, the demand for paramedic services has increased 89% compared to a 64% increase in population over the same period. An aging population and an overall increase in population growth have contributed to the increased demand.

Development activity summary 2018

York Regional Council received a report outlining [development activities for 2018](#). Responding to 1,194 applications, development activity reached its highest level in 2018 and overall trends indicate it will remain strong in 2019.

The 1,194 development applications York Region responded to 2018 include:

- 62 Official Plan Amendment (OPA) applications
- 103 subdivision or condominium applications with conditions of approval
- 69 subdivision or condominium applications with clearance of residential units for registration
- 125 site plan application approvals
- 63 Engineering approvals

Last year, Development Charges (DCs) collected through the approval of applications generated over \$431 million, representing a 15% increase from 2017. These fees, collected in accordance with [Regional Bylaw No. 2010-15](#), directly support growing our Regional transit system, building roads and maintaining current transportation assets to provide an efficient transportation network.

Overview of Bill 68, the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019* presented to Regional Council

York Regional Council received an update on Bill 68, the [Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019](#) and how it will affect York Region and the York Regional Police Services Board.

The goal of Bill 68 is to enhance oversight and improve governance, training and transparency of policing in Ontario. The most significant impact will be in the composition and appointment of members to the Police Services Board and the requirement of a diversity plan governing appointments to the Board.

York Regional Council will determine the size of the Board, however, the Province will continue to appoint more than one-third of its membership. The diversity plan will ensure members of the Board are representative of the population of the municipality.

Donation of two decommissioned Paramedic Services ambulances for 2019

York Regional Council has approved the [donation of two decommissioned ambulances](#) in 2019 to be directed to two medical facilities in Agago County, Uganda and Quito, Ecuador.

Decommissioned ambulances are those that have reached their maximum lifespan of five years or 250,000 kilometres. Decommissioned ambulances can be donated to registered not-for-profit, community or international humanitarian organizations that offer services similar to those supported by York Region.

Since 2011, Regional Council has approved the donation of 10 decommissioned ambulances. Earlier this month, York Region presented an ambulance to the Caribbean North Charities Foundation.

York Region supports amendments to *Construction Act* Prompt Payment and Mandatory Adjudication provisions

York Regional Council endorsed a request by Association of Municipalities of Ontario for amendments to be made to [Construction Act Prompt Payment and Mandatory Adjudication provisions](#), scheduled for implementation on October 1, 2019.

As written, prompt payment will require owners to pay a general contractor within 28 days of receipt of invoice. If owners do not agree that goods or services have been provided as described in the invoice, they have 14 days to deliver a notice of non-payment. This will generate an automatic adjudication process overseen by an Authorized Nominating Authority (ANA).

Proposed amendments to the Act include:

- A minimum of 21 business days for notice of non-payment as thorough review of construction services often requires detailed and large-scale testing
- Implementation of Prompt Payment and Mandatory Adjudication be postponed until one-year after the ANA is created
- Information about the new rules be created and made available to owners, contractors and subcontractors

These proposed amendments will help ensure work done for municipalities will be inspected and certified, there is a sufficient number of trained adjudicators to meet demand and all parties be made aware of their respective obligations.

Region recognized for innovation and excellence for public works

York Region received two awards from the [Ontario Public Works Association](#) for innovative work on transportation and wastewater projects.

Public Works Project of Year Award was presented in the transportation category (for projects of \$10 million to \$50 million) for York Region's [Bayview Avenue road improvements](#) project. Bayview Avenue lies in an environmentally sensitive area and in addition to road widening, more than four hectares of land was transformed into new fishery and terrestrial habitats by creating a new stream in place of an existing ditch to enhance the local environment for generations to come.

The 2018 IT Project of the Year was presented in the environmental services category for York Region's [Inflow and Infiltration Monitoring](#) program. This program studies sanitary sewer flows and rainfall events to collect data and identify improvements to the sewer system.

The OPWA Awards Program was established to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and organizations representing the best in the public works profession.

“It Starts Here” – National Public Works Week is May 19 to 25

York Region Public Works employees promote health, safety and quality of life for our residents. Public works involves things such as building roads, water infrastructure and maintaining services residents

use every day. To raise awareness of the importance of public works, York Regional Council recognizes May 19 to 25, 2019 as [National Public Works Week](#).

This year's theme, "It Starts Here" represents the many aspects of daily life that start with public works, including infrastructure, growth, innovation, mobility, quality of life and healthy communities.

On Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., York Region will host the annual [Family Fun Day and charity barbecue](#) at York Region's Transit Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility at 55 Orlando Drive in the City of Richmond Hill. Proceeds from the charity barbecue will support the [United Way Greater Toronto](#).

Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, May 16, at 9 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns and provides a variety of programs and services to 1.2 million residents and 51,000 businesses with 636,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at york.ca/regionalservices

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