



Friday, April 25, 2008

For Immediate Release

2008 Operating Budget Highlights

York Regional Council yesterday approved a \$1.3 billion Operating Plan as part of The Regional Municipality of York's 2008 Business Plan and Budget. The following provides an overview of the services, both new and current, York Region provides to our residents and businesses across our nine municipalities:

\$528.4 million for Transportation, Works and Transit

Roads

- 59 new lane kilometres of Regional Roads
- Enhance road surface maintenance program
- Design and deploy Real Time Traveler Information system

Water/Wastewater

- Initiate updated *Water for Tomorrow* program
- Complete update to the water and wastewater energy management plan

Solid Waste Management

- Modifications of the Waste Management Facility to improve efficiencies of blue box recyclable processing
- Construct Community Environmental Centre in the City of Vaughan for public drop-off of reusable, recyclable and waste materials
- Expand Household Hazardous Waste depot hours of operation

Transit Services

- Additional 61,047 service hours for York Region Transit (YRT) and Viva Rapid Transit
- Viva purple extension to the Cornell Community in the Town of Markham
- YRT service to new subdivisions in the Town's of Richmond Hill, Markham, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville and the City of Vaughan
- Transit corridor improvements
- GO Transit fare integration in the Town of Georgina
- Additional Fare Enforcement Officers
- Extend Biodiesel initiative to the balance of the Viva Rapid Transit fleet

\$211.8 million for York Regional Police Services

- 67 additional sworn police officers and 35 civilian staff, as well as four additional 9-1-1 call takers / dispatchers

\$190.7 million for Community and Housing Services

Housing Services

- Fund and administer 6,529 social housing units owned and managed by community housing providers
- Provide homelessness prevention and support programs through New Homelessness Partnering Initiative
- Provide \$2.7 million to assist four community agencies to develop 270 affordable housing units by providing one-time funds, up to \$10,000 per unit, and leveraging approximately \$20 million in available federal and provincial funding under the Affordable Housing Program
- Increased payments to Social Housing Providers as per the Social Housing Reform Act

Community Services

- Provide subsidized child care spaces for 3,022 children
- Serve 1,278 children with special needs through Early Intervention Services
- Provide financial assistance to an average of 5,025 individuals and families
- Provide \$2.6 million into the Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) for homelessness prevention, employment assistance and family and children's services

\$ 114.8 million for Health Services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- 26 new paramedics to provide 18,720 additional annual service hours (primarily in the municipalities of Markham, Richmond Hill, Newmarket and Georgina)
- Two new ambulances
- Maintain and improve quality of EMS services:
 - participating in Community College programs
 - recruit and retain qualified Paramedics
 - Recertification of Paramedic instructors and Targeted Responders
 - Expand Heart Alive program

Long Term Care (LTC)

- Operate Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre Long Term Care facilities
- Provide 99,560 client days for LTC community programs, which include Alternative Community Living and LTC Day programs
- Provide Intervention and Assistance Services to vulnerable seniors, persons with physical disabilities and their caregivers
- Provide Regional psychogeriatric and mental health consulting services to LTC support agencies
- Operate 232 long term care beds

Public Health

- Addition of six staff (one for Health Protection, four for Infectious Disease Control and one for Child and Family Health)
- Receive 40,000 Health Connection calls
- Provide more than 14,350 food premise inspections
- Over 70,000 children to receive dental screening
- Provide 42,500 immunizations
- Delivers public health programs, such as disease prevention, restaurant inspection, dental and nutrition, family visit, sexual health clinics, school and workplace wellness and health promotions
- Provide a range of Public Health programs and services legislated by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care under the Health Protection and Promotion Act

\$66.2 million for GTA Pooling

- GTA Pooling is money collected by the Province of Ontario from York Region, Peel Region and Halton Region to help pay for Social Assistance and Social Housing programs in the City of Toronto.

\$58.8 million for Special Purpose Bodies, Boards and Authorities

- Courts
- Conservation Authorities
- GO Transit
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)
- Hospital Capital Funding
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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