

Ontario's Rising Star
York Region

Markham • Vaughan • Richmond Hill • Newmarket • Aurora
Georgina • Whitchurch-Stouffville • East Gwillimbury • King

2026 Vision
Vision

VISION 2026

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE REGION

Fourth Annual Report on Indicators of Progress

2005



Regional Municipality of York
Spring 2006

We'd Like to Hear From You

Tell us what you thought of this year's *Towards the Vision* or simply let us know if you'd like more information on anything you've read in this report:

Mail or in Person:

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For more information on anything listed in this report,
please contact us or visit our web site at:

www.york.ca



Mayor
Tom Taylor
Town of Newmarket



Mayor
Tim Jones
Town of Aurora



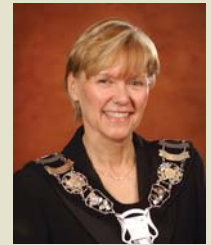
Mayor
James Young
Town of East Gwillimbury



Mayor
Robert Grossi
Town of Georgina



Regional Councillor
Danny Wheeler
Town of Georgina



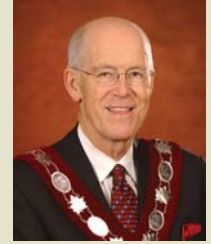
Mayor
Margaret Black
Township of King



Regional Councillor
A.J. (Tony) Van Bynen
Town of Newmarket



Regional Chair and CEO
Bill Fisch



Mayor
Donald Cousens
Town of Markham



Mayor
William F. Bell
Town of Richmond Hill

Message from York Regional Council

York Regional Council is pleased to present *Vision 2026: Towards a Sustainable Region, Fourth Annual Report on Indicators of Progress for the Year 2005*.

Vision 2026 is the Regional Municipality of York's strategic plan for the next 20 years. Under this plan, York Region aims to build strong, caring and safe communities that reflect the kind of community our residents want York Region to be, both now and in the future.

Have we made progress? Successes in 2005 include the launch of Viva Rapid Transit, an energy reduction program, an initiative to increase the Region's forest cover under the Greening Strategy, an increased waste diversion rate and a continued, high quality-of-life ranking by York Region residents.

Regional Council also commenced a Growth Management Review to address increased population forecasts. As part of this review, York Region has renewed its focus on sustainability, and aims to fulfil priorities that maintain and improve our economic competitiveness, the natural environment and healthy communities for the long-term benefit of residents.

We believe it is important that we have a strong, shared vision of our future. We will continue to measure our progress, improve on our plans and inform you of our progress. This update, *Towards a Sustainable Region*, provides you with the highlights of how York Region is working to achieve your priorities. We encourage you to read this and share your comments. By working together on these vital initiatives, we will ensure York Region remains an ideal place to live, work and play.



Regional Councillor
Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham



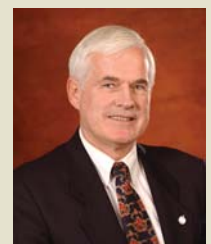
Regional Councillor
David Barrow
Town of Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor
Jack Heath
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Brenda Hogg
Town of Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor
Jim Jones
Town of Markham



Mayor
Michael Di Biase
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Mario Ferri
City of Vaughan



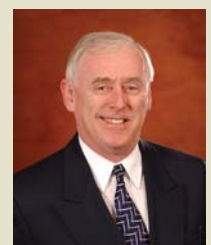
Regional Councillor
Linda D. Jackson
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Joyce Frustaglio
City of Vaughan



Mayor
Sue Sherban
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



Regional Councillor
Bill O'Donnell
Town of Markham

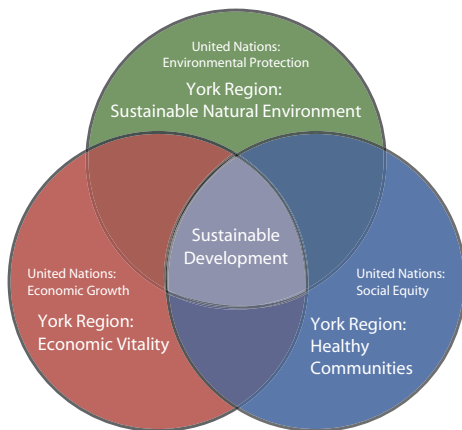
Towards A Sustainable Region

Vision 2026 is York Region's strategic plan for the next quarter century and was created in partnership with our community.

In 1987, the United Nations, through the Brundtland Commission, defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The goal of sustainable development is to integrate and balance the three elements of environmental protection, economic growth and social equity. The basis of sustainable development theory is about legacy in which we strive to answer the question: "what type of world do we want to leave for our children and grand-children?"

In October of 2005, Regional Council endorsed a proposed workplan for a Sustainable Development Initiative for York Region that will help in moving us forward to a more sustainable Region, including the incorporation of a sustainable development theme into the ongoing and future Growth Management workplan.

York Region Official Plan Themes
Within the United Nations Framework of Sustainable Development



Because *Vision 2026* already embodies many of the sustainable development principles, and because the Region is embarking on the development of a Sustainable Development initiative, *Vision 2026 Towards a Sustainable Region* positions the Region well to build on what we're already doing, by reporting on the work we do, the progress we make, and the challenges we have ahead of us, but through the additional lens of sustainability.

Towards a Sustainable Region, continues to meet the objectives of reporting on progress to staff, Council and the public and highlights how York Region's corporate decisions support and further the goals of *Vision 2026* through our programs and business areas.

The Region has undertaken many award winning, successful initiatives towards achieving sustainability, including:

- Centres and Corridors Strategy
- Oak Ridges Moraine and Greening Strategy Initiatives
- Water for Tomorrow Program
- York Region Transit (YRT) and Rapid Transit (VIVA)
- Human Services Plan
- York Regional Police 2005 - 2007 Business Plan
- State of the Environment Report
- Housing Strategy
- Smart Commute Initiative
- Wind Energy Studies
- Sustainable Buildings Programs
- Economic Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy

York Region faces a number of significant challenges, principally with the continuing pace of growth, and in 2005 York Region Council endorsed a workplan for a Sustainable Development Initiative. The first major steps in this initiative will involve integration of the sustainable development theme into the Region's major initiatives. For more information on York Region's sustainability initiatives, visit our website at www.york.ca.

An Example of Triple Bottom Line Sustainability in Transit

Environmental Benefit:

Transit reduces Greenhouse gases and other air pollutants attributed to automobile usage.

Social Benefit:

Transit ensures that all segments of the population and labour force have access to efficient, affordable and quality transportation.

Economic Benefit:

Transit ensures a more efficient movement of goods and people by reducing automobile congestion.

Source: York Region State of the Environment Report 2005

VISION STATEMENT

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

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Guiding Principles

York Region residents identified key principles that should shape future decisions and actions.

These Guiding Principles are found in the *Vision 2026* document.

Accessibility: Providing programs, services and facilities that are available to all, regardless of location or personal mobility.

Business-Friendly Environment: Fostering an environment that invites and encourages businesses to locate, stay and grow in York Region.

Character: Living in a Region where everyone works together to ensure that families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, business is productive, neighbours care about one another and citizens are free to make wise choices for their lives and families.

Customer-Centred Service: Supporting service that is accessible, timely, knowledgeable, competent, courteous, caring and fair.

Dignity, Compassion and Fairness: Recognizing the rights and dignity of all of York Region's citizens through respect, compassion and fair treatment for those of all races, faiths, genders, ages, beliefs, incomes and abilities.

Diversity: Respecting, valuing and responding to the evolving cultural diversity of the municipalities, communities and groups that make up York Region.

Equality: Enabling residents of York Region to participate in programs and services regardless of location, ability to pay, or ethnicity.

Fiscal Responsibility: Ensuring fiscal responsibility through sustainable and accountable government.

Health and Wellness: Supporting healthy lifestyles and the social and emotional well-being of York residents.

Leadership: Ensuring best-quality government through continual assessment and improvement and effective management of change.

Open Communication: Being accessible to citizens and partners and listening to their needs. Reporting regularly on progress.

Partnerships: Co-ordinating, supporting and enhancing services through partnerships with area municipalities, other governments, community agencies and the private sector.

Quality: Delivering leading-edge, effective, timely services to meet the needs of York Region's residents and businesses.

Safety: Ensuring that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods, communities and places of work.

Stewardship: Recognizing that it is everyone's duty to protect the legacy of York Region's natural environment and heritage.

STEWARDSHIP: Recognizing that it is everyone's duty to protect the legacy of York Region's natural environment and heritage.

FOCUS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

Focus on Our Environment was approved by Regional Council in December 2005 and builds on the Region's first State of the Environment report released in 2000, and provides information on indicators of progress as well as a current assessment of York Region's natural environment. The report contains 85 indicators that assess land, water and air resources, and examines major stresses on these resources.

The report provides 33 recommendations from five key areas to preserve our natural environment. The five areas include monitoring the environment for the future, taking action on sustainability, meeting targets and commitments, enhancing the Region's role as a leader and working in partnerships for success.

The recommendations recognize key challenges for the future, including balancing population growth with services and environmental protection, meeting reforestation and transit targets, and meeting provincial criteria and federal standards for air quality. The report is available on the Region's website at www.york.ca.

Quality Communities for a Diverse Population

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region residents will live, work, play and learn in healthy, accessible and safe neighbourhoods that are vibrant, exciting and people-friendly. Residents will continue to enjoy the high quality of life that attracted them to York and will have a strong sense of belonging and commitment to their communities.

GOAL 1

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Celebrating Our Diversity

- Recognizing our multicultural population
- Responding to our diversity with innovative service delivery options
- Being responsive to the needs of vulnerable residents
- Planning for the current and future needs of seniors, including their accessibility needs
- Benefiting from the knowledge and experience of seniors
- Responding to children in need
- Involving and investing in our youth

Creating Vibrant Urban and Rural Communities

- Fostering a strong sense of community, identity and place
- Encouraging the development of a range of activities, recreational opportunities and exciting community places
- Promoting liveable, sustainable and safe communities
- Revitalizing and promoting compact community cores
- Promoting high-quality urban design
- Encouraging pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented neighbourhoods
- Valuing our countryside and rural lifestyle as well as the distinctiveness of our towns and villages
- Addressing the challenge of demands for urban service levels in rural communities

Quality Communities for a Diverse Population

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Ensuring Quality of Life

- 39% (up from 30% in 2004) of residents surveyed rated quality of life in the Region excellent and 50% rated it good, an overall 89% approval rating.
- As of 2001, 53.8% of residents worked in York Region (note, this number is updated every five years, the next update will be in 2006/07).
- The Region's LTC Facilities achieved an overall facility rating of 95% in the combined good and excellent categories as a place to live by clients/families in the Annual Client Satisfaction Quality Survey.
- Achieved 100% and 98% respectively in the Day Centre and Support Services for Seniors Community Programs, Client Satisfaction Surveys.

Responding to Children in Need

- In 2001 there were 13,490 children 0 to 12 in low income economic families to 2012 subsidized child care spaces (FCM Quality of Life Reporting System, Municipal Survey 2003, and Stats Canada, 2001).

Promoting Liveable, Sustainable Safe Communities

- York Regional Police Community Oriented Response Unit increased their number of foot patrol hours to 14,000 in 2005, from 9,734 in 2004 and 7,847 in 2003. The same Unit conducted 119 days on bike patrol across the Region.
- Despite rapid development and population growth across York Region, emergency Response times for York Regional Police held steady at 7.6 minutes.
- The proportion of commuters walking or cycling in 2001 was 2.4%, comparable to 2.6% in 1996 (numbers based on census data, the next update will be available in 2007/08).

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- The Community Development and Investment Fund invested in a broad range of community services to help meet the needs of the Region's growing population
- Completed Child Care Matters, the child care service plan for 2005-2008
- Completed the Child Care Transition Plan to increase licensed child care spaces by 988
- Successful implementation of Moving Forward York Region's Second Annual Accessibility Plan
- Regional Council approved the donation of a decommissioned EMS ambulance to Ecuador
- Provincial approval of Region's Emergency Management Program
- Inclusivity Action Plan
- Region receives Ontario Safety League Public Service Award for the Save-a-Life-Program
- Road to Safety Car Seat Awareness Program

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- Community Oriented Response (COR) Unit conducted over 14,000 hours of foot patrol in communities and 119 days on bike patrol across the Region
- York Regional Police Diversity and Cultural Resources Bureau have strengthened ties with Community Groups across York Region
- York Regional Police Diversity Speaker series open to all Members and the public
- York Regional Police Recruiting with a Vision Program
- Enhanced partnerships with other Police agencies to respond to gangs and organized crime
- Launched pilot Swim to Survive program with school boards and local municipalities to provide basic swimming skills to children living in areas with a high number of new immigrant families and those with limited resources
- Supported community research and planning for establishing a regional welcome centre for immigrants
- Increased service levels in Early Intervention Services for children with special needs
- Provided child care fee assistance to a daily average of over 2700 children



SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - CONTINUED

- Funding for Family Strengthening Programs
- National Access Awareness Week
- Launched Dealing with Family Violence Training for Ontario Works staff
- The "Keep York Kids Safe" home safety training for Ontario Works parents of young children
- Introduced accessible computer workstations for people with disabilities in all Ontario Works office Employment Resource Centres
- Both Newmarket & Maple Health Centres received excellent MOHLTC Compliance Reviews
- Domiciliary Hostel program received an excellent provincial compliance review and best practices were identified
- Chinese Community Health Fair to promote Health Services Department programs
- Tuberculosis Preparedness Guidelines for York Region Shelters
- Introduced Routine Universal Comprehensive Screening (RUCS) for woman abuse
- Introduced Cultural Interpretation Service for women experiencing violence
- Parenting information sheets translated into Chinese, Tamil, Farsi and Urdu
- Unveiling of York Region Heart Health Quilt

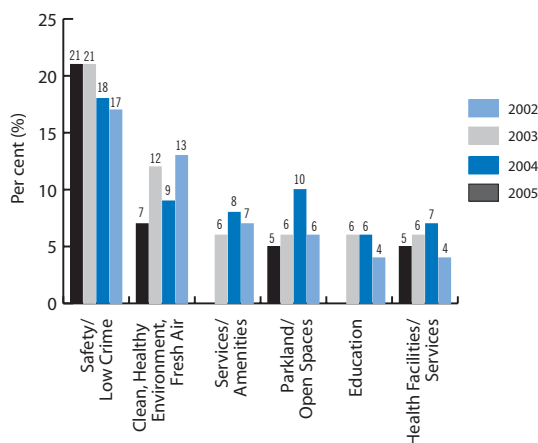
"Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in York Region?"

When York Region residents were asked to rate the quality of life in York Region, the largest proportion (50% down from 61% in 2004) rated the quality of life as good and an additional 39% (up from 30%) rated the quality of life as excellent (an overall 89% approval rating only slightly down from 91% in 2004). Only 10% of polled residents rated the quality of life in York Region as fair.

The rate of employment growth remains fairly stable with the rate of population growth. Population and employment growth are expected to ease moderate slightly in 2006.

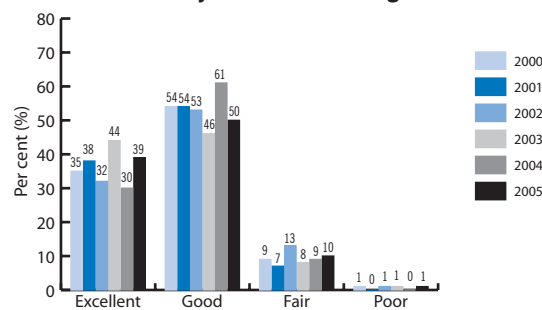
As part of Vision 2026 outreach, residents were asked what the top factors are for quality of life in the Region. The top three factors were; safety and a low rate of crime (17% comparable to 18% in 2004) and a clean healthy environment (13% up from 9%), and services and amenities (7% stable from 8% last year).

Factors That Make for a Good Quality of Life in York Region (First Mention)



Source: Environics Survey 2005

Quality of Life in York Region



Source: Environics Survey 2005

Responding to Our Diversity - York Regional Police

Continuing to become more representative of the communities we serve, York Regional Police conducted 151 Recruiting Outreach initiatives and conducted Places of Worship Tours for all new Police Officers. The Recruiting with a Vision program encourages applicants who are representative of the communities they serve and our ratio of visible minority officers has increased from 6% in 2001 to more than double at 12.7% in 2005.

In addition, many York Regional Police publications are now available in several languages, including English, Chinese, Italian and Urdu.

Responding to Children in Need

PLAY "Participation of Low Income Children and Youth" in partnership with local recreation departments enables children of eligible families to participate year round in recreational programs to enhance their physical and social development. In 2005 over 800 children attended.

Accessibility

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA) is a Provincial Act that requires the Provincial Government, Regional and local municipalities as well as hospitals, schools boards, colleges and universities to prepare annual accessibility plans. The ODA exists to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities in Ontario to access many of the programs, services, policies and facilities administered by the Region.

Moving Forward: York Region's Second Annual Accessibility Plan builds on *Vision 2026* and identifies the removal and prevention of physical and other barriers and opportunities to continually improve services and facilities for persons with disabilities in York Region.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 is now in effect. When the new standards under the AODA are released, York Region will be well positioned to meet these new challenges through the achievements already made in the past three years under the ODA.

Falls Intervention Team (FIT) Project for Seniors (Phase II)

The FIT pilot project was designed to reduce the incidence and consequences of falls for seniors. Forty referrals were received by York Region with 32 active clients between October and December 2005.

2005 Take a Walk in the Forest!

Did you know that there are over 5000 acres of York Regional Forest in 18 different Tracts? Each month Forestry Staff and the Regional Forest Advisory Team host Forest Events. Come out, enjoy and learn.

Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region residents will continue to value and embrace the Region's unique natural heritage (land, air, water) and cultural heritage (sites and buildings important to our history, faiths and cultures).

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Securing a Green York Region

- Protecting sensitive features such as forests, watersheds, the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Simcoe
- Promoting a permanent linked greenlands system
- Continuing to develop and build on strategies for a green region, such as the York Region Forest and Land Securement Strategy

Ensuring Clean Water and Air

- Protecting the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and streams
- Enhancing awareness of the importance of groundwater
- Complying with and maintaining high standards for drinking-water quality
- Promoting clean air policies and initiatives
- Promoting alternative transportation methods that improve air quality, such as public transit and cycling

Promoting Conservation

- Encouraging water conservation
- Using energy more efficiently in operations of the regional government
- Investigating and promoting alternative energy sources
- Living and encouraging the three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle
- Anticipating and responding to climate change

Building Pride in Our Heritage and Culture

- Celebrating historic towns and village cores
- Appreciating our unique cultural sites
- Encouraging and promoting our arts and culture
- Encouraging the preservation of historic buildings, heritage homes and significant historic areas
- Embracing our evolving cultural and faith communities

Sustaining Our Agricultural Base

- Recognizing the role of the agricultural industry and landscape in our heritage and economy
- Protecting high-quality agricultural land, including local food sources such as the Holland Marsh
- Protecting agricultural areas from incompatible or potentially harmful uses

GOAL 2

2

Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Securing A Green Region

- York Region's forest cover is 40,025 hectares or 22.5% of total land area in 2005. The Regional Official Plan target is 25%.
- In 2005, Regional Greenlands System included 60,174 hectares of land or 34% of the total land area of York Region. This represents a 29% increase in this system between 2001 and 2005.
- A total of 580 acres of greenlands have been protected since 2001 through the Greenlands Property Securement Strategy.
- Since 1996, York Region has planted almost 20,000 street trees along regional roads and in 2005 planted 3,518 trees. A total of about 500,000 trees and shrubs were planted through the Greening Strategy between 2000 and 2005.

Clean Air

- In 2005 York Region had 14 air quality advisories affecting a total of 48 days, and had 6 advisories over 14 days in 2004, and 5 over 12 days in 2003.

Air quality advisories are highly dependant on temperature and weather patterns. Warmer, dryer summers tend to produce more poor air quality days because smog is created by both air pollutants and their chemical reactions in sunlight. Trends of individual pollutants can vary, with certain contaminant levels increasing and others decreasing. Particulate matter has recently been included in the Province's Air Quality Index calculations, where trends are not yet established.

Encouraging Water Conservation

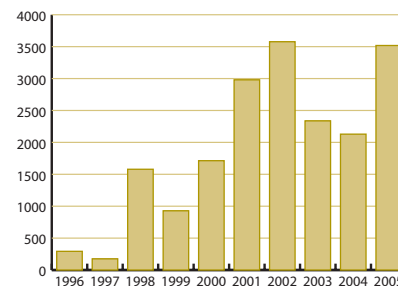
- York Region residents used an average of 236 litres of water a day per person in 2004, down 38.7% from 385 litres in 1997.

Using Energy More Efficiently in Regional Government Operations

- The Region uses 80,974,024kWh of electricity per year in its operations and facilities.
- The Region has set an aggressive 35% energy reduction target and began implementation of initiatives in 2005 to work towards this target.

These indicators represent just some of the ways we're monitoring our environmental quality and protection efforts.

Number of Trees Planted Along Regional Roads by York Region



Source: York Region Forestry Division

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Support for the Dongara Residual Waste Proposal for conversion of waste to alternative fuel
- York Region participated in the 6th annual Smog Summit on Transportation and Health
- Signed the Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air committing to joint actions to address smog and greenhouse gas emissions
- April 2005 York Region Earth Week celebration with York Region District School Board elementary students and regional staff
- *Focus on Our Environment* - York Region's State of the Environment Report 2005 released
- Financial and staff support to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for protection of environment, e.g. natural water resources, natural heritage, tree planting
- *GTA Agricultural Action Plan* Launched
- Participated in GTA Idle Free Campaign
- Development of a residual waste management environmental assessment in partnership with Durham Region
- Development of a curbside textile and reusable goods diversion program in partnership with Goodwill Industries
- Long term food and yard waste composting plans established to increase diversion in the coming years
- Approval of technical and financial support for the City of Vaughan's "Greening Vaughan" waste management plan
- Authorization to develop a waste diversion strategy examining the feasibility of achieving a diversion rate of 75% or higher
- Approved feasibility study for constructed wetlands at Regional lagoon sites
- Forest Conservation By-Law enacted



SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- 7th Annual York Children's Water Festival
- York Region Administrative Building Energy Retrofit
- York Region Energy and Environmental Management software system receives FCM-CH2M Hill Sustainable Community Award
- Awards were received from the Recycling Council of Ontario in recognition of the Region's Litter Prevention Strategy and Yard Waste diversion campaign.
- Litter Prevention Strategy
- Yard Waste marketing campaign
- GTA Smart Commute Initiative
- Corporate Clean Air Task Force
- GTA Smog Summit and Fresh Air Fair
- 20/20 The Way to Clean Air Ecoschools program
- June 13-17, 2005 GTA Idle Free Campaign in York Region
- Regional Air Quality Policy Stakeholder Consultation
- Permanent rainfall warning signs posted at public beaches in 2005
- Responded to over 850 Calls through Health Protection Information Disclosure Line on private well water education and outreach
- Water Conservation Plan - Yonge Street Aquifer Study
- Regional Energy & Environmental Management Program to track energy consumption and savings
- 37 Action Items identified in Agricultural Action Plan to strengthen agricultural industry
- York Durham Rural-Urban Summit
- Region's blue box program expanded to include a variety of new materials including rigid, plastic containers and conversion to a commingled collection system was completed resulting in an increase of almost 14% in the quantity of materials diverted from residents
- Use of plastic bags for yard waste collection successfully eliminated with less than 1% of residents objecting at a cost savings of over \$230,000 a year

Focus on Our Environment York Region's Second State of the Environment Report

Focus on Our Environment was approved by Regional Council in December 2005 and builds on the Region's first State of the Environment report released in 2000, and provides information on indicators of progress as well as a current assessment of York Region's natural environment. The report contains 85 indicators that assess land, water and air resources, and examines major stresses on these resources.

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The recommendations recognize key challenges for the future, including balancing population growth with services and environmental protection, meeting reforestation and transit targets, and meeting provincial criteria and federal standards for air quality. The report is available on the Region's website at www.york.ca.

Using Energy More Efficiently in Operations of the Regional Government

An Energy retrofit at the Regional Administrative Building has introduced advanced energy and environmental technologies which will help to control lighting, temperature, ventilation and water throughout the building. This retrofit will both reduce energy consumption and provide a more comfortable work environment. The anticipated cost savings are in excess of \$200,000 annually.

In addition, the Region has developed a web-based real time Energy and Environmental Management software system (EEMS) which monitors and tracks utility and natural gas consumption as well as greenhouse gas emissions. EEMS, developed with the aid of Federal grants, was the recipient of the FCM- CH2M Hill Sustainable Community award from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Can one person really make a difference to our environment? Yes!

We are all connected to the world around us. The three spheres of our natural environment: land, water and air, impact the quality of our lives every day. In turn, we must take responsibility and manage these resources wisely.

Every person, family and business in York Region can make choices to strengthen our connection to our environment. Choosing to manage our resources wisely is important. One small positive change in each of land, water and air will make a significant, positive difference. In turn, we all benefit.

Small steps add up to a much bigger whole.

How do you manage wisely? To find out, you can start by determining your own ecological footprint. An ecological footprint tells us how our lifestyle affects the natural environment. It measures how much land and water we occupy or use in order to produce the resources we consume, and absorb all the waste we produce. By measuring the impact we have on our natural environment and comparing it to nature's own productively, we can determine how sustainable our current practices and lifestyles are. Some helpful resources to calculate your footprint can be found at:

www.wrwcanada.com/09ecofootprint.htm or
www.eyec.ca/steplightly/ecofoot.pdf

Or visit York Region's State of the Environment Report 2005 on our website www.york.ca for an A to Z list of environmental actions and ideas that we can all use.

Ensuring Clean Water and Conservation

A number of innovative and informative water activities took place in 2005, including:

- The 7th Annual York Children's Water Festival was held for five days at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. Over 5,000 grade 4 and 5 students participated in the 50 curriculum based activities focusing on water issues.
- Through the installation of early closing toilet flappers, and low flow showerheads, industrial audits and rebates and distribution leak detection, Water for Tomorrow is saving over 23 million litres of water per day. Enough water to supply a town of 85,000 residents.
- In an effort to reduce summer outdoor water use, Water for Tomorrow, completed 1,045 residential water efficient landscape audits and 22 water efficient gardening seminars.
- Adding to its growing list of water efficient demonstration gardens in York Region, Water for Tomorrow initiated new demonstration gardens at Thornhill Community Centre and Markham Historical Museum in Markham and Cold Creek Conservation Area in King Township.

Did You Know?

The 20/20 Way to Clean Air Program increased its outreach by close to 400% across the GTA in 2005 including 10,000 Planners being distributed through Ecoschools and 15,000 through community and workplace outreach resulting in an estimated reduction of 19,800 tonnes of green house gas emissions this year.

Promoting Clean Air Policies and Initiatives

York Region's Clean Air Inventory is available on the GTA Clean Air Online website under the Governments' Actions on Clean Air in the Greater Toronto Area section. www.gtacleanaironline.ca

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will be renowned for its advanced technology, innovative businesses, supportive business infrastructure and highly skilled resident workforce.

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Attracting and Supporting Businesses

- Supporting business start-ups, and the incubation, expansion and diversification of business
- Encouraging the revitalization of established business areas
- Partnering with area municipalities and our neighbours in the GTA to seek and promote economic development opportunities
- Promoting our tourism strengths, including forests, historic villages, parks and artistic and cultural activities
- Fostering networking between businesses, both regionally and locally, and between business and other major sectors (such as health, education and government)
- Increasing businesses' awareness of the Region's services
- Supporting the efficient movement of people and goods in the Region through transportation enhancements
- Building more global awareness of our strengths as a destination to live, work, play and learn

Encouraging Continual Learning

- Encouraging the development of lifelong learning opportunities and a broad range of learning options for residents
- Encouraging the development of more accessible post-secondary educational opportunities for residents
- Identifying workforce and educational needs together with key business and education partners
- Developing more public awareness programs, such as "Water for Tomorrow"

Promoting and Supporting Innovation

- Promoting enhanced technology infrastructure
- Facilitating job creation in designated employment areas, through targeted expansion of services such as transit
- Encouraging access to technology at community sites such as libraries, hospitals and schools business and education partners

GOAL 3

Attracting and Supporting Businesses:

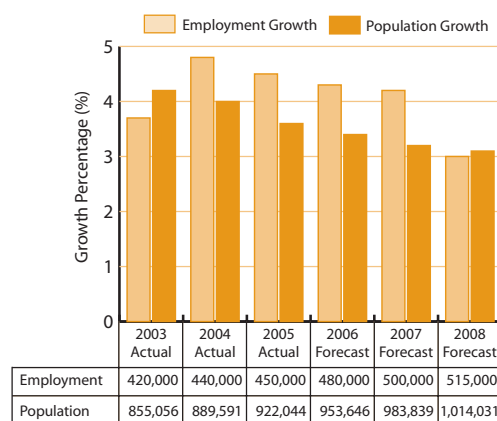
- In 2005, approximately 95.3% of York Region's labour force was employed, up somewhat from 93.5% in 2004, and consistent with 94.3% in 2003 and 95.5% in 2002.
- Annual job creation: 10,000 to 20,000 per year for past 6 years, there were 450,000 jobs in the Region as of December 31, 2005 up from 430,000 in 2004 and 415,000 in 2003.
- York Region welcomed 2.975 million visitors in 2004, an increase of 19% compared to 2003. Total tourism spending of \$209.3 million represents an increase of 13.75% over a year ago.
- There are 50 private sector firms employing over 500 employees in the Region, up from 40 in 2004 and 18 in 1998.

Supporting Business Start-ups, and the Incubation, Expansion and Diversification of Business

- Small Business Enterprise Centre convened 10 seminars, handled over 5,300 general enquiries and conducted 244 consultations with small business owners.

Encouraging Continual Learning

- Percentage of population 15+ with less than grade 9 education was 7.6% in 2001 and 9.3% in 1991 (Stats Canada, 1991, 2001).
- Post secondary education attainment of people aged 25 to 34 as a measure of labour market capacity: in 2001, 80.7% of 25 to 34 year olds had some level of post-secondary education (including Trade certificate or diploma, University degree, or some post-secondary with no degree) in York Region. (Stats Canada, 2001).

Employment to Population Growth Trend

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department

Employment to Population Growth

The annual rate of employment growth versus the annual rate of population growth in York Region has stabilized somewhat with a slight increase in employment projected.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- York Region Economic Strategy
- 116 eating establishments in York Region were awarded the Eat Smart! Award in 2005
- Continued funding to summer camp programs for over 500 children of Ontario Works participants and social housing residents enabling parents to access employment training and jobs while promoting child development
- York Region Business Directory 2005 released
- 2005 Vacant Employment Land Inventory
- The Economy of York Region Report
- Export Development Initiative
- 2006 Tourism Marketing Program
- 2005 York Region Visitor's Guide
- Incorporation of YORKbiotech in partnership with York University, area municipalities and other public and private sector partners
- York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- Ontario Works Call Centre Training Program through our Georgina office
- 1124 Ontario Works clients participated in volunteer activities to enhance employment skills and benefit their communities across York Region
- Piloted an Income Earner Strategy to assist Ontario Works participants to increase their earning potential
- Worked with community agencies to support foreign trained professionals
- Initiated a new individualized training to work program for Ontario Works participants
- New Outcome Based Employment Planning and Funding Model developed to support Ontario Works participants with their return to work
- 2005 York Region Farm Fresh map and guide
- Establishment of York Export Alliance in partnership with other levels of government, Chambers of Commerce/Board of Trade and industry associations
- Hosted Bridges to Better Business Conference
- Up and Running BizLaunch Program



York Region's Economic Strategy - Collaborating for Success

Council adopted the final Economic Strategy in collaboration with local municipalities, senior levels of government and the business community. The new strategy incorporates five strategic directions, 18 strategic objectives and 90 associated action areas aiming to improve and sustain the economic competitiveness in York Region within the global marketplace.

Regional Council authorized staff to implement the priority actions contained in the Economic Strategy including:

- Develop a virtual information portal in collaboration with YorkInfo Partnership
- Convene a Regional Business Roundtable
- Facilitate the evolution of a Regional Industry Education Council
- Facilitate the establishment of an Advanced Manufacturing Consortium
- Undertake a detailed structural analysis of the Region's high performance clusters
- Develop a marketing and communications plan to promote the Region's natural and cultural attributes
- Undertake a major events infrastructure audit
- Engage business to promote and support transportation demand management.

Working for You

In 2005, York Region's Social Assistance Division partnered with community agencies and employers to promote job opportunities for Social Assistance recipients. In 2005, 966 individuals left Ontario Works for employment. For the period of 1999 to 2005 York Region's Ontario Works Program assisted approximately over 6300 participants to leave Social Assistance for jobs.

Encouraging Continual Learning

From 1999 to 2005 the Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program has assisted over 410 young parents (aged 16 to 21) on social assistance to learn about child development, increase their parenting skills, engage in employment planning and work towards their high school diploma.



Responding to the Needs of Our Residents

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region's human services will support a safe, caring and healthy community and maintain and promote a high quality of life. A broad range of organizations will work and plan together, including police forces, schools, businesses, housing providers, hospitals, social service providers, public health agencies, recreation facilities and non-profit, voluntary and business groups.

GOAL 4

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Meeting People's Basic Needs

- Addressing the need for shelter
- Facilitating access to job opportunities
- Supporting access to safe and ample food
- Enabling access to services that aid in early child development
- Informing people about available services
- Ensuring mobility through accessible and affordable transportation

Supporting Safe and Secure Communities

- Providing superior-quality policing
- Addressing the safety needs of vulnerable groups
- Building strong alliances between police and communities
- Continuing to provide and support high-quality, co-ordinated emergency services

Promoting Wellness

- Supporting health care needs at all stages of life
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles through information, education and prevention
- Promoting social and emotional well-being

Enhancing Our Human Resources and Partnerships

- Attracting trained health, education and social service professionals
- Recruiting and training volunteers to enhance service delivery
- Partnering with community agencies to provide more and better services
- Building relationships with public-sector and private-sector partners to provide services
- Empowering our community to assume shared responsibility

4

Responding to the Needs of Our Residents

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Supporting Safe and Secure Communities

- The five year trend for the crime rate (Criminal Code violations per 100,000 persons) in York Region has shown an increase of 4.2 % (1999-2003), but is still the third lowest regional crime rate in the province (Source:2003 Statistics Canada).
- York Regional Police received over 205,000 requests for service from January to October 2005, with only 119 public complaints.
- York Regional Police inspected 2,394 Commercial Motor Vehicles in 2005. A total of 969 charges were laid and 792 vehicles were taken out of service.
- York Regional Police increased R.I.D.E. program operation days to 160 in 2005, an increase of 15% over 2004.
- In 2005, York Regional Police increased the amount of radar hours by 3,000 over the previous year.
- YR Health Protection Division completed 13,704 food inspections (2005), up from 13,317 in 2004.

Promoting Wellness

- Life Expectancy: 81.6 years, higher than the Ontario average of 79.7 years (2000 to 2002).
- 18% of adult respondents 18+ were current smokers, down from 23% in 2002 (Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, January to November 2005).
- Low birth weights (single births less than 2,500 grams): 3.8% for York Region compared to 4.4% for Ontario (2002).
- 90% of York Region residents (18 years+) reported their general health as excellent/very good/good (RRFSS January to November 2005).

Enhancing Our Human Resources and Partnerships

- In 1997 York Region's volunteerism rate was 32.9% and was 21.6% in 2000.
(National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 1997, 2000)

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Winter Needs Program to aid homeless
- The Community Development and Investment Fund invested in 62 community projects to provide important supports for over 35,000 children, families, and individuals across York Region
- Successful implementation of Moving Forward: York Region's Second Annual Accessibility Plan
- Seniors Resource Directory
- Implementation of Convalescent Care Program at the Newmarket Health Centre in partnership with York Region hospitals and the CCAC
- Successful implementation of iPHIS, a secure web-based reporting system for emerging diseases
- Supported the Ontario Smoke-Free Strategy to make all workplaces and Public Places in Ontario smoke-free by May 31, 2006 and to prohibit youth access to tobacco
- Developed the Innovative Smoking Intervention Project for Urdu, Farsi and Russian communities
- Youth Action Alliance - The Smoke-Free Ontario Campaign

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- York Regional Police Community Services Bureau and community agencies form the Mental Health Support Team
- York Regional Police hosted special ceremonies to honour peacekeepers and The Year of the Veteran
- Innovative Smoking Intervention Program
- York Regional Police Community Services Bureau conducted 2,189 visits to elementary schools and 3,161 visits to high schools
- York Regional Police Seniors Support Liaison Officer conducted presentations on Personal Safety for Seniors, Elder Abuse Awareness and Identity Theft
- High School Grants Program for student driven tobacco control projects
- Local Capacity Building: smoke free Prevention and Protection Program
- Supported community projects including programs for at risk youth, expansion of breakfast programs in schools and employment support services to new residents with families



SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - CONTINUED

- Enhanced the Ontario Works Mental Health Resource Model
- Began implementation of Best Start Phase I to expand licensed child care spaces and subsidies
- G.I.V.E. "Get Involved, Volunteer in Education" training program
- First Steps program delivered to assist women with employment planning
- World AIDS Day - A Reflective Ceremony
- The Comprehensive School Health model was implemented in 47 schools
- Launch of "Energize Your Workplace" toolkit
- Sun Awareness Week
- Paramedic Response Station Openings: Richmond Hill in partnership with York Regional Police, Vaughan - Racco Parkway Station in partnership with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services
- Opened new sexual health clinic at Keswick High School

York Regional Police Community Resource Centre

In October 2005, the York Regional Police Community Resource Centre (CRC) celebrated its first anniversary of operation. Citizens are able to report collisions at the CRC, as well as apply for Clearance Letters and Volunteer Screening. In 2005, almost 8,000 motor vehicle collisions were reported at the CRC in Richmond Hill. An estimated 75% of the Clearance Letters and Volunteer Screening applications were submitted at the CRC, with the remainder being submitted at York Regional Police Headquarters in Newmarket. In response to complaints from the public, members of York Regional Police conducted 7,046 Traffic Complaint visits.

Accessibility Planning in York Region

Moving Forward: York Region's 2005 Accessibility Plan was approved in March outlining the Region's commitment to identifying, removing and preventing barriers to Regional programs, services and facilities for people with disabilities.

Meeting People's Basic Needs - Winter Needs Program

York Region's Winter Needs Program annually provides community agencies with funding for the purchase of items for distribution to clients, such as food, winter clothing, furnishings, transportation tickets, and resource information. Funding has also been provided for homeless and those at risk for improvements to facilities like emergency shelters and drop-in centres.

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles through Information, Education and Prevention

York Region Health Services Department received over \$750,000 from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the Ontario Tobacco Strategy to support the following four initiatives:

- The Innovative Smoking Intervention Program will develop a comprehensive ethno-cultural tobacco cessation and prevention program based on a "best practice" model directed to parents and extended family members.
- The Youth Action Alliance - Smoke-Free Ontario Campaign aims to prevent and reduce smoking in youth by directly engaging them as key participants and leaders in the campaign.
- The High School Grants Program awarded five high schools \$1000 per school for student-driven tobacco control projects.
- The Local Capacity Building: Prevention and Protection Program will help raise awareness of the need for such things as increasing enforcement of local no-smoking by-laws and compliance checks of tobacco retailers to prevent illegal sales to minors.

Promoting Wellness

- Provided dental screening to 60,000 children
- Completed two enforcement checks of approximately 880 tobacco vendors in York Region
- Trained and certified 1479 food handlers through our Proton Food Handler Training Program
- Completed 222 West Nile Virus related investigations
- 77,000 catch basins were larvicided to help stop the spread of West Nile Virus
- Inspectors investigated 856 animal bites
- 8,728 families were contacted following the birth of their baby
- 419 families identified as "high risk" received ongoing home visiting
- 179 Sexual Health Community presentations to 3,500 people
- Provided prenatal education to 660 first time expectant couples
- 62 stress management workshops delivered to 1,644 participants
- 186 infectious disease outbreak investigations conducted
- EMS responded to 107,084 calls
- 6 new paramedics hired

Emergency Management

- The Maple Health Centre, in partnership with EMS, Fire and Police conducted a major emergency exercise at the Maple Health Centre to prepare staff and test emergency preparedness in the event of a disaster.
- EMS hosted the CBRN: The Initial Hours Conference. A CBRN event is an emergency resulting from chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazards. The purpose of this event was to discuss a planned and coordinated response to a CBRN incident, and to actively participate in a valuable opportunity to network and share information with colleagues. The main objective was to bring together first responders from across the province to discuss common concerns and practices associated with response to a CBRN event.
- Pandemic Influenza Planning: Health Services has developed a Pandemic Plan, 36 presentations have been delivered to over 1193 York Region Health Services Staff, 15 presentations to over 1080 Regional level staff, 27 presentations to over 250 organizations. In addition, a staff newsletter was developed for pandemic awareness.
- Pandemic Preparedness information provided to the public through Health Services website and *Emergency Preparedness Guide*
- Sentinel School surveillance pilot project was initiated to track absenteeism within 8 York Region schools.

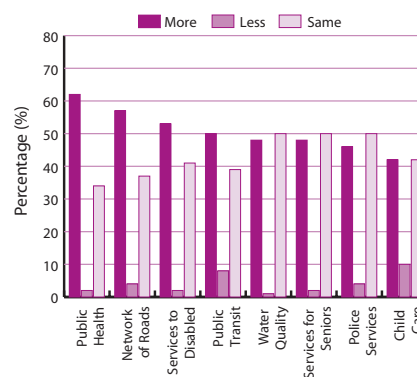
Heart Alive Public Access Defibrillator Initiatives

- Provided 14 Target Responder courses, 22 Recertification courses, trained 147 employees and recertified 228 employees.
- Partnered with the City of Vaughan and the Town of Georgina. Provided 6 Target Responder courses and trained 91 employees.

Municipal Spending

York Region residents were asked about spending preferences on specific categories. Across York Region, 62% of residents think their municipality should be spending more financial resources on public health while 57% would like funds spent on the network of roads. Fifty-three percent (53%) would like to see increased spending on services to people with disabilities and 50% of residents would like to see additional financial resources directed to public transit.

Municipal Spending Priorities



Source: Environics Survey 2005

Supporting Safe and Secure Communities

Responding to community concerns over crime in the community, members of York Regional Police Community Services Bureau conducted 271 Crime Prevention presentations and forums across York Region.

Housing Choices for Our Residents

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region residents will have access to a variety of housing options that are safe, affordable and responsive to their diverse and changing needs.

GOAL 5

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Providing Appropriate Housing Mix and Supply

- Encouraging a wide variety of housing types, to increase the choices available to residents
- Encouraging the production of housing that residents can afford to rent or buy
- Responding to the need for specialized housing, such as housing for people with physical disabilities and seniors living on their own

Planning for Strong Live, Work, Play and Learn Connections

- Achieving better connections between where residents live, work, play and learn
- Working to match the needs of employees with housing options
- Encouraging the development of public and private services close to where people live

Creating Well-Designed and Liveable Communities

- Encouraging quality urban planning and design that emphasizes the needs of people
- Enhancing residential streetscapes
- Encouraging the development of compact communities where people can walk to services
- Encouraging the integration of nature into development
- Encouraging and implementing architectural design controls in new developments

Addressing Key Housing Needs

- Addressing homelessness and developing homelessness prevention programs
- Developing policies and programs to meet a variety of housing needs, including shelter for vulnerable residents and affordable ownership options
- Encouraging productive partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors, as well as other governments, to produce mixed-income communities
- Advocating for increased funding for housing from senior levels of government

Housing Choices for Our Residents

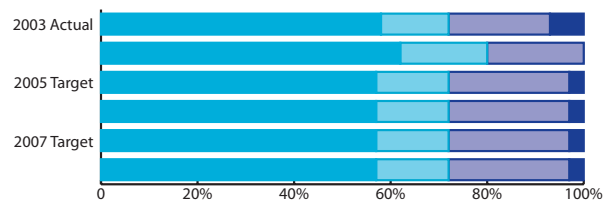
Providing Appropriate Housing Mix and Supply:

- In 2005, there were 9,497 residential housing starts in York Region, down slightly from 10,221 in 2004, 11,049 in 2003 and 11,941 in 2002.
- As of December 31, 2005, the housing mix was 72% single family and 28% multiple units (semis, rows and apartments) compared to 74% single family and 26% multiple units in 2003. York Region has set a long-term target of achieving a 40% multiple unit supply.

Waiting Lists

- In December 2005, there were nearly 5,500 applicants on the Region's subsidized housing waiting list.
- Long Term Care and Seniors Program's Alternative Community Living Program housing waiting list was 461 clients in December 2005, up from 340 in December 2004.
- Long Term Care Facility waitlist reduced to 115 at the Newmarket Health Centre and 69 at the Maple Health Centre (December 2005).

Housing Mix - Registration Stage



	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Target	2007 Target	2008 Target
■ Apartments	614	0	3%	3%	3%	3%
■ Row	1,957	1,352	25%	25%	25%	25%
■ Semi	1,325	1,209	15%	15%	15%	15%
■ Detached	5,419	4,116	57%	57%	57%	57%

Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department

Housing Mix

The supply of single detached homes has fallen in 2004. It is anticipated that 2006 targets will be consist with 2005 registration levels. York Region's long term target is to have 50% of new housing supply as multi-unit completions (semi's, rows and apartments). This offers a diverse mix of housing choices and provides people with different income levels and housing needs a variety of choices in the housing market.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Started construction on the Sutton Youth Multi-Service Centre to provide emergency and transitional shelter
- Initiated development on a 50 unit low rise apartment building on the Stickwood Walker site in Newmarket
- Through the Council Approved Community Development and Investment Fund strategy, over \$1.1M was allocated in 2005 to 29 initiatives that addressed homelessness and related issues
- Conducted planning for expansion of Leeder Place Family Shelter to provide additional emergency shelter beds for homeless families
- Completed 2005 Housing York Business Plan
- Continued to fund Newmarket's Inn from the Cold Program and Out from the Cold programs in communities in the south end of the Region
- Lodging Houses By-Law
- Strong Communities Rent Supplement Agreement

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- Provided rent supplement to 398 households
- Served 349 households by the Regions homelessness prevention programs
- Implemented Outreach Worker pilot program to support residents exiting emergency shelters transition into stable housing in the community
- Continued to support the Provincial Rent and Energy Bank program to provide funding for homelessness prevention
- Enhanced supports to domiciliary hostels through the development of a Provider Handbook and implementation of the Quality of Life Initiative
- Received Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Household and Economy, Remaining Competitive report



Addressing Homelessness

The Region funds a wide range of programs for those who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, some of these include:

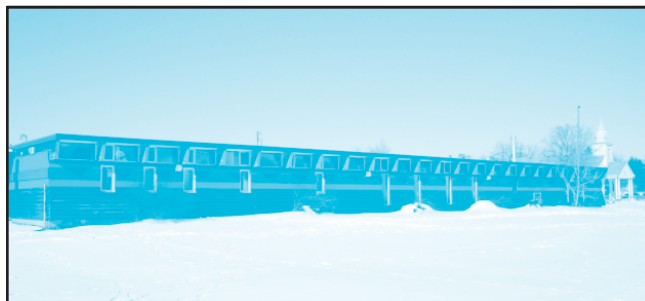
- The Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health operates a non-crisis support line primarily for psychiatric survivors, their families, and friends.
- Pathways for Children Youth and Families of York Region operates a drop-in centre for at risk and homeless youth aged 13 to 24 in Richmond Hill.
- Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers operates a housing outreach program to support young parents to secure and maintain safe, affordable housing. They also link young mothers to community based early years programs.
- Trinity United Church in Newmarket has established a Community Teaching Kitchen that teaches at-risk individuals new life skills in the areas of cooking, budgeting, and nutrition.

- Approximately 60 people a month are receiving new or replacement personal ID through seven part-time mobile clinics in the Region run by the Canadian Mental Health Association. The clinics provide personal ID replacement for homeless and at-risk people.
- Continued to support Housing Help Centre, which provides listings of accommodations for rent across York Region and acts as an information centre for housing-related issues for both landlords and tenants. In 2005, the Centre served 185 clients of which 155 remained housed for a minimum of three months. The Centre also acts as a referral source for other service providers when assisting clients to locate housing.

STRONG COMMUNITIES RENT SUPPLEMENT

Rent supplement programs involve agreement for rental units primarily located in buildings owned by private landlords. Under agreements, the units are made available to eligible households from the social housing waiting list. The household pays rent-g geared-to-income (RGI) and the Region pays the landlord the difference between the RGI amount and the regular market rent for the unit.

The rent supplement programs enable the Region to access more than \$2.8 million of provincial program funding to help increase the supply of much needed affordable housing. The flexible nature of this program allows the Region to target units to the most underserved applicants on the waiting list, and to high demand locations.



The Sutton Youth Multi-Service Centre

The Sutton Youth Multi-Service Centre located on Dalton Road in Sutton is a recreational centre and shelter for at-risk youth. York Region and the Town of Georgina partnered to convert St. Bernadette's Elementary school which had been declared surplus. The renovated Centre will provide 16 co-ed emergency shelter beds and 10 transitional units, including an accessible unit, which will be managed on behalf of the Region by the Salvation Army. There will also be office space available for agencies who deal with at-risk youth. It is expected the Centre will be open in March 2006.



VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will have grown at a pace that supports healthy communities, economic vitality, sustainable natural environment and effective human services.

GOAL 6

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Taking a Strategic Approach to Growth Management

- Co-ordinating the location of job growth and population growth
- Using land, infrastructure and services efficiently in urban areas
- Co-ordinating the timing of infrastructure and service development (such as schools, community facilities, all utilities and roads) with the development of new growth areas

Balancing Growth with the Environment

- Taking a leadership role in environmental strategies and conservation

Financing Growth

- Securing adequate funding for future needs
- Focusing attention on long-term capital plans
- Co-ordinating efforts with local municipalities
- Partnering with federal and provincial governments and the private sector to develop innovative funding methods

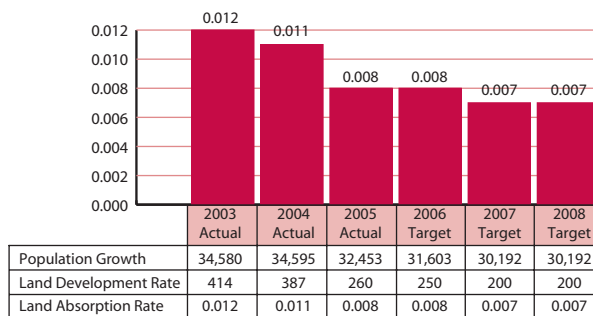
Planning for Human Services

- Anticipating and responding to the human service needs of a growing and changing population
- Supporting cross-sectoral human services planning and programming through groups, such as the Human Services Planning Coalition

Managed and Balanced Growth:

- The Average length of trip to work for York Region Residents: 16.5 kilometres. (note, this number is updated every 5 years, the next update will be in 2006/07; source 2001 TTS.
- # Acres of greenlands secured: 580 since 2001.
- As of 2001, 53.8% of residents worked in York Region (note, this number is updated every five years, the next update will be in 2006/07).
- York Region's employed labour force of 470,000 closely matches the 450,000 jobs available in the Region. By 2011 York Region's employment is expected to increase to 540,000 jobs and to 696,000 jobs in 2026.

Land Absorption Rate
Hectares of New Land Per New Resident



Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department

LAND ABSORPTION TO POPULATION GROWTH

The decrease in the rate of land absorption shows the Region is accommodating more residents with less land. This indicates a more compact urban form that supports transit investments and makes efficient use of Regional infrastructure.

GROWTH IN YORK REGION

York Region has been growing at a rate of over 36,000 people per year for the past five years. Managing and balancing the needs of a growing population for housing, transit, and human services like health, education, etc., must be balanced with the need to protect the environment in which we live. York Region's Official Plan and the Centres and Corridors Growth Management Strategy provide direction to help ensure this balance by setting boundaries for where growth can occur. In the past 10 years, growth has occurred at twice the density it did before and is limited to areas designated for this growth.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Growth Management Public Information and Engagement Work Plan
- Sustainable Development Strategy Work Plan
- ROPA 43 - Regional Centres and Corridors
- Regional Council response to Province's Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan
- Established a protocol for assigning servicing to area municipalities to meet growth demands
- Development of Managing Transportation Congestion Strategy
- Approval for York Region Employee Trip Reduction Program
- Approval to conduct a study to update the Transportation Master Plan
- Approval to conduct a Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan study
- The Region produced its first-ever Strategic Accommodation Plan
- Development Charge By-Law Amendment

TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES**York Region Wins Two Awards for Innovative Waste Management Strategies**

York Region's Solid Waste Management Branch won two awards from the Recycling Council of Ontario for the Yard Waste marketing campaign and the Litter Prevention Strategy.



SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- York Region Residential Intensification Opportunities
- The Primer for a Sustainable York Region
- Initiated Transit Oriented Guideline to encourage pedestrian friendly, transit supportive development in the Centres and Corridors
- Supported Vaughan and Markham in planning for Secondary Plans supporting mixed use, transit friendly, compact development
- Successful in providing servicing to meet individual municipal needs and growth demands
- Launched a GTA+Hamilton-wide ride-matching service, the Carpool Zone, as part of Smart Commute Initiative

- Smart Commute 404-7 (Markham, Richmond Hill) in full operation
- York Regional Police hired an additional 67 police officers and 35 civilians as part of its 5 Year Staffing Plan
- York Regional Police implemented a new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) to better respond to community needs
- Police Services Board approves 2005-2007 Business Plan with cornerstones focus on COPS : Community Focus, Operational Excellence, Preferred Place of Employment and Superior Quality Service

York Region has been growing at a rapid rate over the past few years and because of its attractiveness and location is expected to continue to grow.

What do you feel are the key issues around continued growth in York Region?

York Region residents were asked what they feel the key top of mind issues are around continued growth in York Region.

Traffic and insufficient roadways topped the list at 36%, followed by transportation and public transit (22%) and concern around sufficient housing (12% up slightly from 11%). This year there was an almost doubled increase in some areas around growth issues, schools and education (12% up from 7%), crime and public safety (11% up from 6%) health care and hospitals (10% only up one point from 9%) and a healthy economy, jobs and businesses (10% up from 7%).

This year, there was decreasing concern with environmental protection (9% down from 17%), good planning and adequate infrastructure (8% down from 16%), and too much development (5% down from 11%) all of which have decreased by almost half.

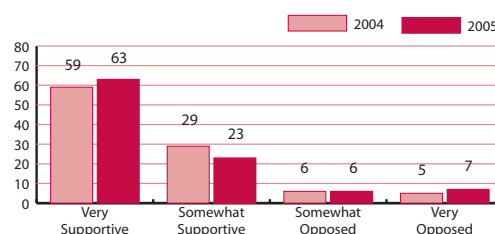
In order to protect greenspaces and agricultural lands in York Region, additional growth will need to be more compact and be located in existing urbanized areas.

Do you support or oppose this approach of managing additional growth to preserve natural and agricultural areas?

The majority of residents surveyed (86%) supported a growth management approach where additional growth will be more compact and located in existing urban areas in order to preserve natural and agricultural areas.

Of these respondents, 63% were very supportive and 23% were somewhat supportive.

Compact Urban Growth to Preserve Agricultural and Natural Areas



Source: Environics Survey, 2005

Anticipating and Responding to the Human Service Needs of a Growing and Changing Population - York Region's Inclusivity Action Plan

Approved by the Human Services Planning Coalition, The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region proposes a community plan to increase York Region's capacity to respond to the needs of immigrants and new Canadians.

The challenge for service providers is to remove barriers to the full participation of immigrants and to tap into the rich experiences, skills and abilities of this growing population.

The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region contains six specific actions:

- Develop a welcome centre for immigrants to help people settle into appropriate employment and housing and to gain access to education, health care and social services.
- Language development programs.
- Region-wide education campaign to raise awareness of inclusivity practices.
- Learning opportunities for children to advance inclusive and respectful character traits at an early age.
- Volunteer opportunities for immigrants and the development of their leadership skills.
- Tools to help organizations become more inclusive.

The Plan is the result of six months of community consultation, and an Inclusivity Summit attended by 180 people representing 95 different organizations in York Region.

Taking a Strategic Approach to Growth Management

York Regional Council approved the Growth Management Public Information and Engagement Work Plan for the Region's Growth Management initiative. The public information and engagement process - involving public open houses and forums, publications and the Internet - will proceed early 2006 over a two-year period and will examine the best ways for accommodating significant population and employment growth, protecting our natural heritage to ensure a legacy for existing and future residents and making sure that both human services and infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

The Region's Growth Management systems, as well as the Region's Master Planning strategies for Transportation and Water and Sewers, will be reviewed as part of this process and will culminate in a Regional Official Plan Amendment in late 2007.

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will have effective, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation, waste management and water systems.

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Developing An Integrated Transportation Network

- Developing an Integrated Transportation Network
- Exploring and implementing innovations and technologies to reduce congestion
- Planning our road system to work efficiently with provincial and interregional infrastructure
- Ensuring that our transportation network co-ordinates with development
- Providing for alternative forms of transportation such as walking and cycling
- Promoting safety on York Region roads through effective policing, education and sensitive design

Making Transit Accessible

- Continuing to improve service and infrastructure for successfully integrated transit service
- Enhancing the provision of specialized transit service
- Developing an optimal mix of transit service types
- Promoting transit usage as a practical and wise alternative to private vehicle use
- Planning for high-level transit services to employment areas in the Region
- Investigating alternative fuel technologies to reduce emissions

Managing and Minimizing Waste

- Encouraging continued diversion of waste from landfill, including recycling
- Enhancing public awareness programs about recycling
- Pursuing new technologies to reduce and handle waste
- Being a leader in waste reduction

Ensuring Water for Our Future

- Ensuring a long-term water source for York Region
- Providing safe and dependable water supply to systems and facilities in area municipalities
- Ensuring stable, cost-effective waste-water treatment
- Building new systems that anticipate growth
- Upgrading water systems to incorporate environmentally sensitive methods

GOAL 7

7 Infrastructure for a Growing Region

Promoting Transit as a Practical and Wise Alternative to Private Vehicle Use

- York Region Transit/Viva provided approximately 15.2 million transit trips in 2005; a 10.2% increase over the same period last year.
- Transit revenue vehicle hours increased by 18% over the previous year.
- Modal split: 79% automobile, 8% public transit, 7% walking and cycling and 5% school bus in 2001 (note, this information is updated every five years, the next update will be in 2006/07).

Making Transit Accessible

- In 2005, 86% of residential properties and 73% of employment areas were within 500 metres of public transit.
- Fully accessible VIVA vehicles for persons with disabilities
- Mobility Plus ridership has increased 36% over four years, from a ridership of 191,402 in 2002 to 260,673 in 2005.

Ensuring Water for Our Future

- In 2005 the Region saved 23 million litres per day through the Water for Tomorrow program up from 22.4 in 2004 and 13.5 in 2003. This is an annual savings of 8.4 billion litres of water.

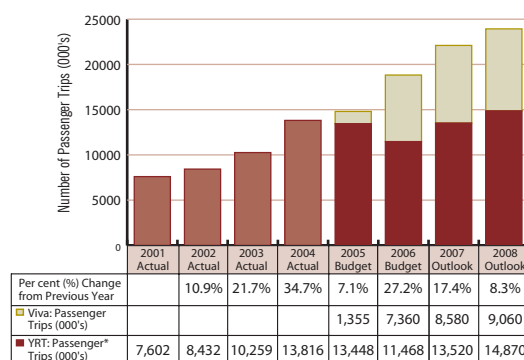
Managing and Minimizing Waste

- The percentage of waste diverted by the Region in 2001 was 25%. This rate increased to 34% in 2005. (Note: diversion rate is understated pending official Provincial numbers)
- The percentage of waste diverted per household was 0.3 tonnes in 2003 and 0.39 tonnes in 2005.

YRT ridership continues to increase

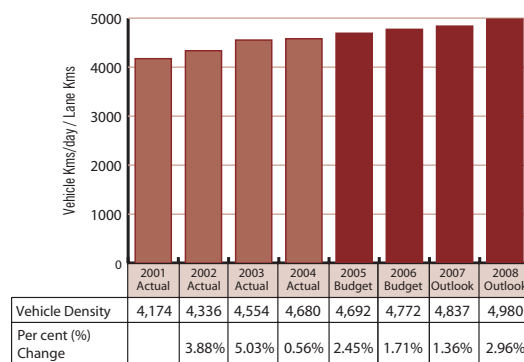
As the population grows in the Region so does the volume of traffic. Increasing congestion is a concern of all residents. York Region has a pro-active roads program in place to ensure effective planning for our rapid growth and to provide the road capacity needed for a growing population. This along with the procurement and development of a new Centralized Traffic Control System will assist in addressing congestion on the Regional road system.

Number of Passenger Trips: YRT* and Viva



Source: Passenger Trips: Regular service passenger trips are linked trips riding one way from origin to final destination, passengers whose trip involves transfers count only as one.
*Does not include Mobility Plus passengers.

Vehicle Density: Congestion



Source: Vehicle Density records are maintained by Roads Traffic Safety Operations Technologist (Woodbine).

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Viva Rapid Transit launch
- Approval of 2005 Service Plan which included route extensions (e.g. Major Mackenzie), new routes (e.g. King City) and additional service hours
- Federal/Provincial Funding commitment for Viva
- All nine area municipalities now have both conventional and specialized transit services
- Adoption of new transit Fare Policy
- New YRT/Viva Marketing and Communications Plan 2006 Marketing Plan approved
- New service delivery model for specialized Mobility Plus transit service

- Publication of 2004 Transportation Fact Book
- Publication of Water and Wastewater Supply and Demand Monitoring Report
- Approval of Draft "Noise Policy Update - Mitigation of Traffic Noise on Regional Roads"
- Toward Great Regional Streets Policy development including six lane design guidelines, commuter parking, Municipal Streetscaping Partnership and Street Tree Health
- Initiated Policy for Funding Mid Block Collector Road Crossings of 400 Series Highways
- Development of Community Environmental Centres in Richmond Hill and Vaughan were approved
- Contracted for a new source separated food waste (SSO) facility providing 30,000 tonnes of capacity per year



SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

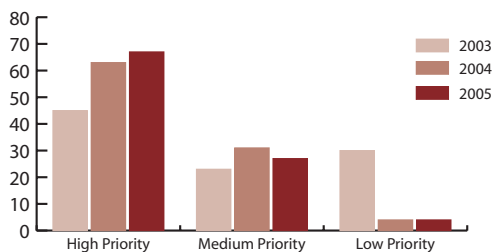
- Fully accessible VIVA vehicles, with bike racks at VIVA stations
- Completed transit way environmental assessments for Yonge South and Highway 7 and Vaughan North-South
- Completed environmental assessment of Markham Bypass Extension to Morningside Avenue
- Reviewed and commented on approximately 200 development applications to ensure transit supportive guidelines are considered
- York Regional Police Marine Unit acquired the Waawaatesi - "The Firefly" - 34 ft Hike 30 boat, equipped with portable side scan sonar
- Completed new 5-Year Transit Service Plan
- Implemented Performance Measurement Program for transit service contracts
- New Small Bus Strategy - including pilot for Newmarket
- Implemented new integrated revenue management system for transit
- Transit infrastructure improvements including Promenade Terminal upgrade, new waste/recycling facilities at stops
- Bus procurement program of 46 new YRT and 85 new Viva buses
- Launch of Viva and the integration of the rest of the YRT system with the new Viva corridors
- Completion of the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plan in Georgina
- Public Works Association's Project of the Year Award - Environmental Category for the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant
- Commissioning of \$39 million Garfield Wright Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury was completed in July, 2005 to provide 90,000 tonnes/year of blue box material processing and 35,000 tonnes/year of residual waste transfer capacity
- A Household Hazardous Waste public drop-off facility was commissioned in Vaughan

Do you think implementing rapid transit should be a priority for York Region?

When asked what priority should be given to implementing rapid transit in York Region, most said it should be a high priority (67% up from 63% in 2004 and 45% in 2003).

Twenty-seven percent (down from 31% said it was a medium priority and 4% (considerably down from 30% in 2003) a low priority.

Priority of Implementing Rapid Transit



Source: Environics Survey 2005

Reducing Congestion

Leading by example, Regional Council approved the York Region Employee Trip Reduction Program as part of the Region's continuing effort to implement more clean air initiatives. It is also a component of York Region's commitment to the Smart Commute Initiative, which York is leading.

Are you very, somewhat, not very, or not at all familiar with Viva's plans to implement Rapid Transit services?

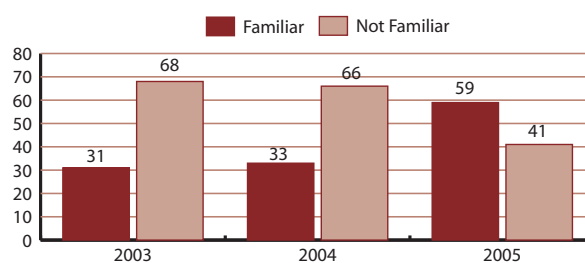
Viva's Quick Start is the first phase of a long-term program to implement Rapid Transit in York Region. It focuses on four key corridors and will introduce new vehicles, stations, routes and technology that will work together to create a new rapid transit service that will provide immediate benefits.

York Region residents were asked for the third year in a row if they were very, somewhat, not very, or not at all familiar with Viva's plans to implement Rapid Transit services on Yonge Street, Highway 7, and from Markham Centre to Don Mills Subway station and from Vaughan Corporate Centre to Downsview Subway Station.

Overall awareness has increased this year, with the majority of respondents this year (59% up from 33% in 2004) saying they were familiar with Viva's plans (21% very familiar, 38% somewhat familiar).

Those who have said they were not at all familiar (28% down from 43%) or not very familiar (13% down from 23%) has dropped considerably in the past year.

Familiarity with Viva's Rapid Transit Plans



Source: Environics Survey, 2005

Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will be known for its citizen involvement and will set high standards for transparent policy making and decision making, effective communication, strong partnerships, clear accountability and best-quality service.

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Proactively Meeting the Needs of Our Customers

- Setting a high standard for customer service
- Delivering services to our multilingual population
- Meeting service needs at the right time, place and price

Building High-Performance Teams

- Attracting and retaining effective staff
- Encouraging continual learning in our organization

Partnering in Service Delivery

- Working with federal and provincial government partners
- Enhancing service by co-ordinating governments in area municipalities and neighbouring municipalities
- Fostering effective working relationships with community agencies and organizations
- Engaging the private sector in alternative service delivery strategies

Being a Region That Involves Its Citizens

- Engaging our residents in decisions that affect their lives
- Enhancing two-way communication with citizens, including the use of technology to exchange information
- Using meaningful consultation to develop effective solutions together with citizens and neighbourhood groups
- Proactively involving York Region businesses

Being Fiscally Responsible

- Investigating service delivery options and funding for them
- Providing cost-effective service
- Pursuing alternative sources of funding

Being Accountable

- Evaluating and reporting on our performance
- Seeking feedback from our citizens

GOAL 8

Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region

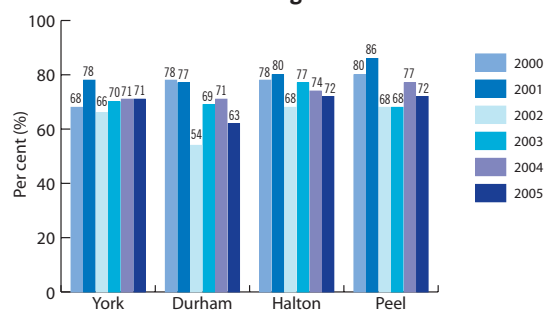
Proactively Meeting the Needs of Our Customers

- In 2005 71% of citizens were satisfied with Regional Government, consistent with previous years (71% in 2004, 70% in 2003 but up from 66% in 2002).
- Effectiveness levels ranged from the highest (86%) for providing access to services so that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods, availability of human services (85%), and enhancement of the natural environment (70%) to a low of (51%) for providing a range of affordable housing opportunities.

Being Fiscally Responsible

- York Region has maintained a AAA credit rating, the highest possible credit rating, since 1992.

Satisfaction with Regional Government



Source: Environics Survey 2005

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2005

- Released Towards the Vision: Third Annual Report on Indicators of Progress
- 2005 Business Plan and Budget
- A Guide to Customer Service in York Region updated to include "Serving Persons with Disabilities"
- The Region now has 600 users of its corporate electronic document management system that manages e-mails and other electronic information to improve accountability and provide faster customer service
- York Region coordinated and provided funding for the Swim to Survive Pilot Program in partnership with school boards, all nine area municipalities and the Lifesaving Society. Through this Pilot program, 2,452 grade 3 children in selected schools learned basic swimming skills who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to learn to swim
- The York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee, composed of citizens from across the Region, continues to be a key resource and partner in the accessibility planning process
- Region received the Government Finance Officers Association [GFOA] Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2005 Business Plan and Budget
- Region's 2004 Annual Report "Focus" released
- Report to Province: "On a New Financial Deal: Advocating for Legislative and Funding Changes"

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2005

- Numerous public consultation centres and stakeholder meetings for the transit way and road-related environmental assessment studies

- Enhanced public consultation during all phases of Transportation and Works project delivery
- Presentation to Local Municipal Councils of key Transportation and Works project and policy development initiatives
- Use of portable message boards during construction projects to enhance communication with public
- York Regional Police volunteers logged 59,414 volunteer hours in the community in 2005
- Public and Separate School Boards high school students sit on Police District Community Liaison committees at all five District Headquarters
- Implementation of programs and services at Region designed to promote a stronger organizational culture
- York Region employees raised \$110,568 for the United Way, surpassing the original \$100,000 goal.
- YorkInfo Partnership
- Enhanced version of YorkAtlas released
- Advancing YorkExplorer Project
- YorkExplorer Award of Excellence from ESRI Canada Ltd.
- Produced the 2005 YorkLink Community Services Directory providing information on nearly 700 community service providers and related government agencies
- Opened an additional breastfeeding clinic at South Service Centre
- York Region EMS receive Provincial award for public safety leadership role
- Health Connection provided health care information, education and counselling for 38,932 callers
- Sexual Health Line incorporated with Health Connection Line to improve customer service



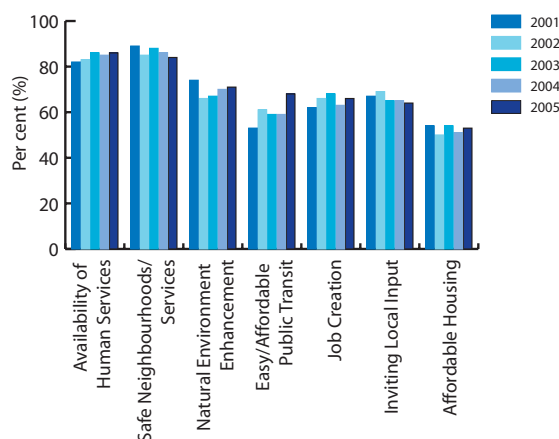
York Region's Effectiveness

York Region residents were asked to rate the overall effectiveness of the Regional government in addressing key local issues such as safety, human services, natural environment, job creation, inviting public input, providing a transportation system that makes getting around easy and affordable and the provision of a range of affordable housing opportunities.

Effectiveness levels ranged from the highest for availability of human services (86%), and providing access to services so that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods (84%), and enhancement of the natural environment (71%) to a low of (53%) for providing a range of affordable housing opportunities.

* Effectiveness includes 'very effective' and 'somewhat effective'

York Region's Effectiveness



Source: Environics Survey 2005

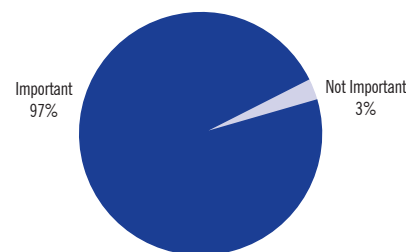
BEING A REGION THAT INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS, BIG OR SMALL Community Safety Village

On May 14, 2005, York Regional Police officially opened the Community Safety Village at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Stouffville. Since our Grand Opening, over 15,000 students from across York Region have visited. Over 2,100 Grade 1 students have participated in the Traffic Safety program since May 2005, while over 1,000 grade 3 students have participated in the Bicycle Safety program. The Safety Village has worked with both the Public and Separate School Boards to develop educational programs with great success. The Safety Village has also hosted safety programs for a variety of students, including those with Special Needs and Visual Impairments. Our officers also partnered with OMNI TV to produce a Traffic Safety lesson in Cantonese.

"How important do you feel it is for programs, services and facilities in York Region to be fully accessible to all including residents with disabilities?"

A resounding 97% majority of residents feel it is important for programs, services and facilities in York Region to be fully accessible to residents with disabilities. This includes 79% who feel it was very important and 18% who feel it is somewhat important.

Importance of Full Accessibility



Source: Environics Survey 2005

Did you know?

Agendas for Regional Council and its Committees are posted on the Region's web site on the weekend before the meeting, with hyperlinks to background reports and information.

GOODWILL AMBASSADORS Meeting the Needs of Our Customers

This year York Regional Police introduced three new mascots - Bobby the Bear, Bucky the Beaver and Morris the Moose. They can be seen at community events across the Region as goodwill ambassadors for York Regional Police.

Partnering in Service Delivery

YorkInfo Partnership is an association of local governments and organizations initiated by York Region in 1996 to create and operate a co-ordinated geospatial information framework.

The YorkInfo Partnership includes all nine area municipalities of York Region, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

YorkInfo Partnership's accomplishments in 2005 include:

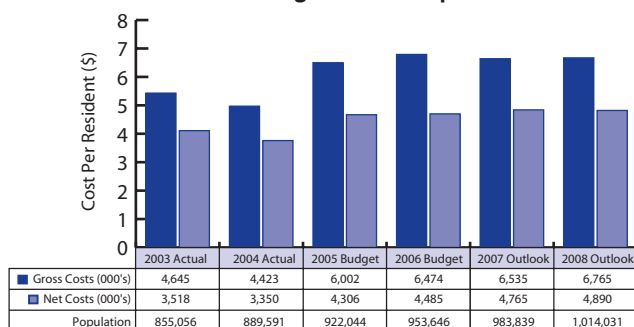
- Development of tools, licensing and data sharing agreements
- Establishment of geospatial information standards related to roads and parcel databases to facilitate sharing of geospatial data between municipalities
- Acquisition of 2005 orthophotography
- Creation, maintenance, enhancement and sharing of geospatial information.

The Partnership members avoid duplication and costs related to data collection, information management and technology while developing an efficient information infrastructure that is important to managing the challenges of rapidly growing urban areas along agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive sites.

Planning Costs

The annual cost of the Planning and Development Services department activities to serve each resident of York Region amounts to about \$4.67 per resident per year in 2005. A slight increase includes new initiatives such as digital orthophotography, a regional growth management system and the addition of Infrastructure Planning branch to the Planning and Development Services Department.

Total Planning Costs Per Population



Source: York Region Planning and Development Services Department

Working for You

G.I.V.E. "Get Involved, Volunteer in Education" is a collaborative program involving Ontario Works, the Family and Children's Services Division, the Health Services Department and the York Region District School Board that provides employment, health, safety, and parenting training to individuals volunteering in schools

Proactively Meeting the Needs of Our Customers and Partnering in Service Delivery

Through collaboration between Housing Services, Family and Children's Services and Social Assistance working together with community agencies and the local municipalities the Region of York provides funding to the following programs:

After School Programs Drop In programs delivered by trained staff offering: Sports, art, games, and homework support five days a week to school age children in four Housing York Inc. social housing communities.

PLAY Provides funding to children of eligible low income families to participate in community recreation programs such as sports, art, aquatics and martial arts delivered by the local municipality. Children 4 to 12 years of age benefit by access to positive role models and are engaged in physical activity and social development. Parents report the programs lead to a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Summer Camp Funding is provided to children 4 to 12 years of age of eligible low income families for a fun summer experience acquiring new skills and improving self esteem all under the supervision of trained staff. Parents can focus on finding a job or enhancing their skills and income. Youth 13 to 17 years of age can participate in leadership opportunities at a residential camp.

Research demonstrates that access to recreation for children and youth particularly of low income or marginalized families is effective in crime prevention, increased physical health and civic engagement.

Enhancing Service by Coordinating with Local Municipalities

York Region partnered with the Town of Newmarket's Call Centre to provide customer service to residents regarding the change from plastic bags for yard waste to kraft paper bags and reusable containers. This partnership not only provided residents with excellent customer service but also saved taxpayers money.

Setting a High Standard for Customer Service - Online Police Reports

York Regional Police were the first in Ontario, and the second in Canada, to launch online reporting. Citizens can log on to www.yrp.ca and submit police reports online. In 2005, a total of 987 police reports were submitted online.

Crimestoppers

In 2005, a new Crimestoppers Web site was launched. Citizens can now visit www.crimestoppersyr.ca to report tips online anonymously. This year a total of 1,347 tips were received, 116 of which were submitted online. As a result of tips received, York Regional Police made 111 arrests and laid 318 charges. A total of \$526,250 in property was recovered; \$6.8 million in drugs and 26 weapons were seized.



2026 Vision
Vision