

meeting the challenge in York Region



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7.0



8.0



3.0



4.0



5.0



6.0



3.0 meeting the challenge in York Region



3.1 major regional environmental initiatives since 2000

This intent of this section of the State of the Environment Report is to provide a brief overview of the major Regional environmental initiatives that have taken place since 2000. These are the policies and plans that provide overall direction with respect to how we grow, protect our natural resources, manage our wastes and protect the environment. Within the context of these “directional” policies and plans, the Region has carried out dozens of programs and projects that help to protect and/or enhance the environment. These smaller (but important) programs and projects are profiled in section 3.2 (Regional Responses to the Recommendations of the SOE 2000 Report) and in chapters 4, 5 and 6.

3.1.1 land

Vision 2026

Vision 2026 is York Region’s strategic plan for the next quarter century. It provides guidance to Regional Council in making decisions and moving ahead to achieve the kind of community our citizens told us they wanted York Region to be in the year 2026. Vision 2026 supports and promotes the Region’s leadership role in environmental strategies and conservation and balancing growth and environment. It also encourages the integration of nature into development in order to create well-designed and liveable communities. Through Vision 2026, the Region has committed to enhance the environment by continuing to develop and build on initiatives such as the Greening Strategy and by reporting out to the public through vehicles such as this State of the Environment Report.

Greening Strategy

One of the Recommendations of the SOE 2000 Report was that York Region develop a greening strategy so that policies relating to York Region’s forest, greenlands and natural features could be translated into tangible actions. Council adopted its Greening Strategy in May, 2001. The Greening Strategy functions as an umbrella for a host of Regional initiatives including policy planning, education, stewardship, naturalization, regional streetscaping, the Regional Forest Conservation By-law and property securement. The Strategy ensures that all of these action areas are rationalized and support each other and the policies of the Regional Official Plan(ROP). (See section 3.2.4 for a description of the major activities and achievements relating to greening).

Protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine

In 2000, York Region joined with the Regions of Durham and Peel to develop a regionally led long-term strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine to protect its natural functions and features. The Tri-Regional Oak Ridges Moraine Strategy was released in 2001, and shortly after, the Province of Ontario proceeded to enact the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* to protect the natural resources and functions of the Moraine. (See section 3.2.3 for more detail).

Centres and Corridors Strategy

In June 2004, York Regional Council endorsed the York Region Centres and Corridors Strategy, “Making It Happen.” The aim of the Strategy is to promote the development of an urban structure of centres (nodes) and corridors. The four designated Regional centres (Markham Centre, Newmarket Centre, Richmond Hill Centre and the Vaughan Corporate Centre) will be higher density, mixed use precincts that are linked by the Regional corridors of Yonge Street and Highway 7. Implementation of the Centres and Corridors Strategy will contribute to intensification and strengthen the relationship between land use, transportation and transit.

THE GOALS OF VISION 2026

- Quality communities for a diverse population
- Enhanced environment, heritage and culture
- A vibrant economy
- Responding to the needs of our residents
- Housing choices for our residents
- Managed and balanced growth
 - Infrastructure for a growing region
- Engaged communities and a responsive Region





MAJOR REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Vision 2026

Greening Strategy

Protection of Oak Ridges Moraine

Centres and Corridors Strategy

Transportation Master Plan

York Rapid Transit Plan

Waste Management Strategy

Long Term Water Project Master Plan Update

YDSS Master Plan

Water for Tomorrow

Groundwater Management Strategy

Watershed Planning, Water Budget Analysis and Conservation Plans

Corporate Clean Air

GTA Clean Air Council and the Annual Smog Summit

Energy and Transit Initiatives

Pesticide Reduction Guidelines

3.1.1

land continued

Transportation Master Plan

York Region's Transportation Master Plan was approved by Regional Council in June 2002.¹ It maps out a vision for an integrated road and transit system that will support growth over the next 30 years. The heart of the Master Plan is the ambitious goal to more than double the percentage of public transit trips made by York Region residents. The Master Plan includes many improvements to transit service, facilities and routes, along with improvements to the highway and road network (See sections 3.2.13 and 4.8 for more detail). The benefits of increased transit ridership include reductions in vehicle emissions, conservation of fossil fuels and reduced land requirements for new roads.

York Rapid Transit Plan

The Region has made significant progress since 2000 in the field of transit. The first milestone was the amalgamation of transit services in 2001. The Region recognized that amalgamated public transit services would support economic vitality, environmental sustainability and the health of the Regional community. The next large achievement was the creation of the York Rapid Transit Plan. To implement the Plan, the Region entered into a Public-Private Partnership Agreement with a private sector consortium in 2002. The Rapid Transit Plan was approved in 2004 with financial contributions from both provincial and federal governments. The Plan maps out a 3-stage approach to developing rapid transit (Viva) to service York Region. Viva service began in the fall of 2005. (See sections 3.2.13 and 4.8 for more detail).

Waste Management Strategy

Spurred on by the planned closure of the Keele Valley Landfill Site, York Region released its Waste Management Strategy in March 2002. The Strategy is built around a three-stream collection system for blue box materials, household organic waste and residual garbage. The system includes two transfer stations, a large, state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility that opened in July 2005, and disposal of residuals at two landfills in Michigan and one in Ontario. (See sections 3.2.11 and 4.9 for more detail).

3.1.2

water

Long Term Water Project Master Plan Update

The Long Term Water Project Master Plan Update is a long-range plan that integrates existing and future infrastructure requirements with environmental assessment planning principles. The Master Plan Update, released in April 2004, examined each of the areas in York Region that are serviced by municipal water and described how the existing water supply system should be expanded to meet

future needs through to the year 2036. This long-term infrastructure program, predicted to cost more than \$470-million, will continue to use both surface and groundwater. The Master Plan will provide additional water capacity, to supplement that which is provided by the Region's Water Efficiency Program, Water for Tomorrow.

York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) Master Plan

Ninety percent of the wastewater that is produced in York Region is collected and treated through the York Durham Sewage System at the Duffin Creek Pollution Control Plant in the City of Pickering. To address the needs for servicing in the rapidly growing region, a YDSS Master Plan Study was completed in 1997. In 2002, the Master Plan was updated to reflect current planning forecasts and to confirm the timing of the required infrastructure. The Updated Master Plan identified a number of priority projects including the Lower Leslie Street Trunk, the 16th Avenue Trunk Sewer Phase 2 and the 19th Avenue Interceptor Sewer. These projects are required to support planned growth around the existing urban centres of Aurora, Newmarket, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham.

3.1.2 water

continued

On October 1, 2004, the Minister of the Environment imposed new conditions for the YDSS Interceptor Sewer Project in addition to those imposed upon the approval of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA). The Region is actively working to comply with the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the provisions of the EA and the conditions imposed by the Minister of the Environment. Public concerns regarding the projects include dewatering, impacts to private wells, impacts to Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM), compliance with *ORM Act* and urban sprawl. Measures are being taken by the Region to ensure the health of the environment while working to ensure that sanitary services will meet the needs of York Region's growing population. For the most recent information on York Region's Wastewater Infrastructure projects, visit www.york.ca.

Water for Tomorrow

Water for Tomorrow is the Region's comprehensive water efficiency program. It was started in 1998 and has greatly expanded since 2000. The program engages all sectors - homeowners, apartment dwellers, small businesses, industries and institution - in conserving water and using it more efficiently. (See sections 3.2.8 and 5.1 for more detail).

Groundwater Management Strategy

In partnership with the MOE, adjacent municipalities, and conservation authorities, the Region began to develop a comprehensive Groundwater Management Strategy in 2001. The primary partnership has been the York Peel Durham Toronto Groundwater Management Strategy Study (YPDT Study). The YPDT Study group includes the four municipalities and nine conservation authorities with jurisdiction in the Oak Ridges Moraine Area. In the first stage of the Groundwater Management Strategy, technical studies were carried out to characterize and better understand groundwater resources. In future stages, the Region will develop appropriate policies and programs to ensure the long-term protection of groundwater resources, both in terms of quality and quantity. (See section 5.5 for more detail).

Watershed Planning, Water Budget Analysis and Conservation Plans

The *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* requires that watershed plans be developed by April 2007 for all the river systems originating on the Moraine. Staff from the Region and conservation authorities have been working together to fulfill these requirements. The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is concurrently developing watershed plans for the four watersheds that drain into Lake Simcoe and plans to have them complete by 2007. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has already developed watershed plans for the Humber River, Don River and Duffins Creek, is currently developing a watershed plan for the Rouge River and is filling in data gaps in the other watershed plans to meet the requirements of the *Act*. The Conservation Authorities are on track to meet the deadlines contained in the *Act*.

The Region is also working with LSRCA and TRCA to develop water budgets and watershed-based water conservation plans to meet the requirements of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001*. The initial stage of the Water Conservation Plan Component is to evaluate the impact that the Region's water efficiency program, Water For Tomorrow, has had on the Yonge Street Aquifer study area. This was completed in September 2005.

DID YOU KNOW?

The YDSS was constructed in the 1970s by the Province of Ontario. It has greatly contributed towards improving water quality in the Great Lakes Basin. The YDSS was the first in North America to be registered under the ISO 14001 (an internationally recognized Environmental Management System).





3.1.3 air

Corporate Clean Air

In December 2004, the Region launched its Corporate Clean Air Task Force. The Task Force has two goals. The first of these is to identify specific, measurable and achievable corporate actions to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The second goal is to demonstrate leadership in air quality and other environmental initiatives related to emissions throughout York Region, and to encourage area municipalities, York Region residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate such initiatives into their activities and operations. (See section 3.2.12).

GTA Clean Air Council and the Annual Smog Summit

Since its formation in 2001, York Region has been an active participant in the GTA Clean Air Council (GTA CAC). The GTA CAC promotes the reduction of air pollution emissions and increased awareness of regional air quality issues in the GTA through the collective efforts of all levels of government. It identifies and promotes the most effective initiatives to reduce the creation of smog and other forms of air pollution in the GTA, and to reduce their associated health risks. The Council holds an annual Smog Summit at which York Region, along with other members of the Council, commit to individual and joint actions to improve air quality.

Energy and Transit Initiatives

It should be noted that there will be significant air pollution reductions associated with the Region's energy and transit initiatives. These will contribute to the reduction of emissions of both greenhouse gases and smog-related pollutants. Information on these initiatives is found in sections 3.2.13, 4.8 and 4.11.



3.2 regional responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS of the SOE 2000 REPORT



This section of *Focus on Our Environment* updates the progress that has been made on the 24 recommendations that were contained in the SOE 2000 Report. In many cases, the issues addressed are also covered in chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the Report, which look at the current conditions of York Region's land, water and air resources. Cross-referencing is provided to help the reader.

3.2.1 SOE reporting

Recommendation 1: *Recommended that the Region update the State of the Environment Report at three year intervals.*

Action taken on Recommendation: This 2005 Report is the update to the original 2000 York Region State of the Environment Report, *Our Environment, Our Home*. Research for the updated Report began in May 2004. It is anticipated that future York Region State of the Environment Reports will be released every 5 years instead of 3 to better reflect trends and capture changes in the environment.

3.2.2 INFORMATION gaps

Recommendation 2: *Recommended that Regional staff continue to liaise with relevant staff of municipalities, ministries, departments and organizations to fill the data gaps identified as benchmarks throughout the report.*

Action taken on Recommendation: All benchmarks have been re-evaluated. The term benchmarks was changed to indicators to more accurately reflect what is being presented. Many new indicators have been added with the goal of presenting a more complete assessment of the state of the environment in York Region.

Regional staff from Health Services, Planning and Development Services, Transportation and Works, and Corporate Services Departments worked together to update the indicators for the SOE 2005 Report. Staff also consulted a number of key agencies and organizations in this process. These included conservation authorities (LSRCA, TRCA), ministries (MNR, MOE), all 9 area municipalities, and the 7 municipal EACs in York Region. In addition, a consultation session to gather feedback on the draft indicators was held on May 31, 2005 with participation from agencies, conservation authorities, EACs and non-governmental organizations.



CATEGORIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS from the SOE 2000 REPORT

- SOE Reporting
- Information Gaps
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- Greenlands
- Wetlands
- Forests
- Lake Simcoe
- Water Quantity
- Water Quality
- Agricultural Practices
- Solid Waste
- Air Quality
- Transportation
- The Region as Leader





3.2.3 OAK RIDGES moraine

Recommendation 3: Recommended that the Region, together with the Regions of Durham and Peel, continue to develop a regionally led long-term strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine that protects its natural functions and features.

AWARDS

For their work on the Tri-Regional Strategy to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine, York, Peel and Durham Regions were jointly presented with two awards for planning excellence in 2002.

These were the Canadian Institute of Planners' (CIP) Award and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Award.

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region was a leader in the development of the Tri-Regional Oak Ridges Moraine Strategy (2001), which contained proposals to protect the Moraine's features and functions through more comprehensive policies and better information. Partly in response to the Tri-Regional Strategy, in 2001 the Province of Ontario enacted legislation (the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act*, 2001) and released a Provincial Plan to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine. In October 2004, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approved Regional Amendment 41 - The Oak Ridges Moraine Conformity Amendment, which brings the Region's Official Plan into conformity with the Provincial Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Recommendation 4: Recommended that the Region continue to work with the Province, Conservation Authorities, the Geological Survey of Canada and others to maintain and update information on the conditions of the Moraine's resources and ecological functions.

Action taken on Recommendation: Since 2000, York Region has continued to work closely with its partners to improve understanding of the conditions and functions of the resources and ecology of the Oak Ridges Moraine. This work has been driven by two factors: the need to improve understanding and management

of the groundwater resources and flow systems on the Oak Ridges Moraine and in response to requirements under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Some examples of the work that is ongoing include:

- Continued partnership of York Region, Peel Region, Durham Region, the City of Toronto, and the nine conservation authorities with jurisdiction in the Oak Ridges Moraine (under the name of the York Peel Durham Toronto Groundwater Management Strategy Study; or YPDT Study) to further understanding of the groundwater systems and to develop appropriate management policies.
- Development of a single data management system for groundwater-related data in the Oak Ridges Moraine area and within the jurisdictions of the partner agencies.
- Development of a 3-dimensional digital geological map on a regional scale based on conceptual understanding developed by the Geological Survey of Canada.
- Collection of new information via borehole drilling, borehole geophysical surveys, seismic geophysical profiles, stream base flow measurements and groundwater elevation monitoring.
- Development and calibration of regional-scale numerical groundwater flow models to represent groundwater conditions in the Oak Ridges Moraine and particularly within a core area centred upon York Region.
- Defining the areas that contribute water to the municipal wells in York Region and beginning work to establish policies for these areas as Wellhead Protection Areas.
- Carrying out work plans to meet the requirements to develop Watershed Plans within the Oak Ridges Moraine area as per the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. To date this work has focused on data collection and analysis to prepare products such as water budgets.

As a result of this work, York Region and its partners have created the necessary data sets to allow improved assessment, monitoring and management of the resources of the Oak Ridges Moraine. This work has been planned with a long-term focus and will continue. It is expected that these efforts will be expanded further in the near future with the introduction of Drinking Water Source Protection legislation in Ontario.



3.2.4 greenlands

Recommendation 5: *Recommended that a Greening of York Region Strategy be prepared to turn policies related to York Region's forests, greenlands and natural features into action.*

Action taken on Recommendation: Regional Council adopted The York Region Greening Strategy on May 10, 2001. It was developed to provide a context for Regional decision-making that affects the natural environment. This long-term Strategy is a multi-focused initiative intended to ensure that York Region's natural heritage is maintained for future generations. It also focuses on co-ordinating Region, agency and private sector efforts to improve our natural environment.

This initiative also provides the Region with a context for policy and implementation decisions that affect the natural environment including Greening Strategy initiatives such as education, stewardship, naturalization, regional streetscaping, the Regional Forest Conservation By-law and property securement. The Strategy ensures that all of these action areas are rationalized and support each other and the policies of the ROP.

The Greening Strategy is ongoing. Four years of strategic implementation have resulted in a number of significant achievements (see sidebar). While the Region leads some of these initiatives, others are implemented through partnerships with other agencies taking the lead role.

Recommendation 6: *Recommended that the Region continue to work with area municipalities to refine local greenlands strategies.*

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region's ROP requires area municipalities to develop policies that protect and complement the Regional Greenlands System. All nine area municipalities have now carried out some type of greenlands study. Further information on municipal "greening strategies" can be found in section 3.3. The current extent of the Regional Greenlands System is covered in section 4.1 of this report.

Recommendation 7: *Recommended that the Region examine the feasibility of acquiring priority greenlands areas and identify potential acquisition methods and funding sources.*

Action taken on Recommendation: The Greenlands Property Securement Strategy, A Legacy for our Future, was designed to strengthen the Region's commitment to the natural environment. It was adopted by Regional Council in April 2001.² The Strategy is a forward-thinking document that is intended to protect the Region's natural legacy for the future, guide the Region's activities and help to rationalize land securement in areas that require the most protection. In the Securement Strategy, the term "securement" refers to the protection of key natural heritage and Greenlands properties throughout York Region.

While outright purchase is one method of securement, because of the relatively high costs involved, this is only recommended in specific cases where all other means (such as donations, bequests, long-term leases and easements) have been exhausted.³ Under the Securement Strategy, properties are assessed for potential securement opportunities using criteria adopted by Council in January 2004.

GREENING STRATEGY ACTIVITIES and ACHIEVEMENTS

Adopt-A-Stream Crossing Program

Amendments to the
Regional Official Plan

Annual Street Tree Planting and
Streetscaping Program

Corporate Clean Air Task Force
Forest Festivals and Events

Greening Strategy Awareness,
Presentations and Displays

Guide to the Regional Forest

Landowner Contact
Extension Services

Local Municipal Community
Tree Planting Events

Managed Forest Tax Incentive
Program advancements

Management Plans and
Partnership Agreements
for Co-owned Lands

Natural Heritage Feature
Inventory

Nature Conservancy of
Canada Partnership

Nature's Classroom: Forest
Education Program

Oak Ridges Moraine Land
Trust Partnership
Reforestation Guidebook

Salt Reduction Guidelines

Securement Criteria

Strategic Partnerships

Street Tree Assessment
and Inventory

Street Tree Planting Guidelines

"Take a Hike" Trail Guide

York Natural Planting Partnership
for Private Land

York Regional Forest Expansion
and Reforestation

For more information on Greening Strategy
Activities and Achievements in York Region,
please visit [www.region.york.on.ca/
Services/Environmental/Greening +Strategy](http://www.region.york.on.ca/Services/Environmental/Greening+Strategy)





3.2.4 greenlands

continued

In 2004, over 100 landowners were contacted as part of the Region's Greenland Property Securement Strategy. More than 20 of these landowners are considering or actively pursuing the donation of land or conservation easements, which could mean up to 800 hectares secured. Since the adoption of the Land Securement Strategy in 2001, a total of 580 acres of greenlands have been protected.

Partnerships with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT), the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF), LSRCA, TRCA, area municipalities and other stakeholders have provided the opportunity to significantly leverage funds and have made possible the following key land donations, conservation easements, purchases, and bequests:

Figure 3.1

LAND SECUREMENT STRATEGY 2001-2004			
YEAR	LANDS SECURED	YEAR	LANDS SECURED
2001	Baker Sugar Bush - Vaughan	2003	Hall Tract Expansion - Whitchurch-Stouffville
2001	Jefferson Forest - Richmond Hill	2003	MacMillan - Vaughan
2001	Moraine Heights - King	2003	Brownhill Tract - Georgina
2001	Markham lands - Markham	2004	King lands - King
2002-2003	Happy Valley - King	2004	NW Newmarket lands - Newmarket

Source: *Greening Strategy Achievements 2004*, York Region Planning and Development Services Department, 2005

3.2.5 wetlands

Recommendation 8: *Recommended that the Region and area municipalities continue to protect both provincially and locally-significant wetlands from development and alteration.*

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region's ROP requires that municipalities designate wetlands in their official plans and zoning bylaws. The ROP policies also encourage area municipalities, public agencies, and private landowners to protect wetlands not identified in the Plan in order to ensure their continued existence. Increased protection for wetlands is also provided by the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 41, the recently approved Greenbelt Plan 2005, and the new Provincial Policy Statement under the *Planning Act*.

Bayview Avenue extension project

In September 2001, a project began to extend Bayview Avenue from Stouffville Road to Bloomington Road in the Town of Richmond Hill. The extension was needed to address existing transportation needs and was a critical link in the York Region transportation network. A partnership between York Region and TRCA was formed to minimize the impact a road extension would have on the existing wetlands in the area and to provide a compensatory wetland habitat.

The result was the construction of three new wetlands on TRCA property approximately 100 metres east of the new alignment of Bayview Avenue north of Bethesda Road. What was unique about this project was that each wetland was created differently. The first wetland was a man-made hole left to re-naturalize on its own. For the second wetland, mud and seed bank taken from the original wetland were added. An environmental consultant designed the third wetland. This wetland was equipped with everything a wetland normally requires to thrive, including a wide variety of plants and sunning logs for turtles. TRCA monitors all three wetlands to see the differences in the success rates from an environmental standpoint. Walkways were also constructed, so that students on school trips can walk around each of the three wetlands and see the differences for themselves.



3.2.5 wetlands

continued

Bayview Avenue extension project

Additional responses by York Region to reduce environmental stress from the Bayview Avenue road extension included:

- Construction of a clear span bridge structure spanning 70 metres across the Jefferson Ravine to allow the passage of wildlife through the ravine under Bayview Avenue.
- Following two surveys of amphibian movements in the area that confirmed the existence of the Jefferson Salamander, York Region built five special culverts under Bayview Avenue to allow the salamanders to safely cross between woodland and wetland areas.
- The addition of stormwater management ponds.
- Extensive landscaping and planting.

The Bayview Avenue extension project won a Canadian Consulting Engineering Award of Excellence in 2003.

Recommendation 9: *Recommended that the Region support Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) re-evaluation and complexing of wetlands and, where appropriate, make amendments to the Official Plan to provide continued protection to wetlands as they are re-evaluated and complexed.*

Action taken on Recommendation: Wetland evaluations were completed under the lead of York Region's Natural Heritage and Forestry Services Section, Transportation and Works. This included the evaluation of 3 wetland complexes that had not previously been evaluated and the re-evaluation of 3 other wetland complexes that had not been examined since 1990.

In 2004, the MNR in partnership with York Region's Natural Heritage and Forestry Services compiled data on natural features into a GIS database. This has subsequently been provided to York Region for consolidation with our Natural Environment database. As a result of this updated information as well as improved Provincial Policy Statements dealing with natural features, the Region will undertake an official plan amendment to protect wetlands.

Recommendation 10: *Recommended that the Region encourage area municipalities to adopt fill by-laws to control filling and alterations to wetlands.*

Action taken on Recommendation: Aurora, King, Markham, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville have enacted by-laws to regulate the dumping of fill. Further work and direction on fill by-laws at the regional level has not yet begun. The province has yet to provide direction and finalize criteria for such by-laws.

The current extent of wetlands in York Region is addressed in section 4.3 of this report.





3.2.6 forests

Recommendation 11: *Recommended that the Region develop a Forestation Strategy aimed at achieving a target of 25% forest cover. The Strategy should examine enlarging existing Forest Tracts, linking woodlots, forest blocks and greenlands management units, naturalizing abandoned farmlands and stewardship and acquisition strategies.*

Action taken on Recommendation: A target of 25% forest cover is now in the ROP.

As noted in Recommendation 5, York Region's Greening Strategy was adopted by Regional Council on May 10, 2001. The Greening Strategy functions as an umbrella for important Regional initiatives such as policy planning, regional streetscaping, the Regional Forest Conservation By-law and property securement. The Strategy ensures that such initiatives support each other and the policies of the ROP. These include the expansion of the Region's forest cover, monitoring the quality of our natural features, and creating partnerships with other agencies to improve the state of our natural environment.

The Greening Strategy includes a number of programs aimed at increasing forest cover. Under the Strategy, approximately 500,000 trees and shrubs were planted in York Region between 2000 and 2004. Activities aimed at increasing forest cover include the York Natural Planting Partnership for Private Landowners, community naturalization initiatives and Regional support for naturalization events carried out by area municipalities.

As part of the Greening Strategy, York Region retained a team of consulting professionals to undertake a Significant Woodlands Study for the Region. This study:

- updated the Region's forest cover information using 2002 ortho-photography;
- established and applied criteria to determine the significance of woodlots within the Region; and
- identified criteria and areas to set priorities for restoration.

The Significant Woodlands Study will be used to direct Policy and Development Planning (specifically satisfying Provincial Policy Statement requirements for Significant Woodlands), Forest Conservation By-law implementation, Securement of Priority Greenlands, and naturalization initiatives. The results of the study are also made available to area municipalities within York Region to assist them with their woodland and natural heritage protection and enhancement initiatives. For further information and current status of forests in York Region, see section 4.4.

Recommendation 12: *Recommended that area municipalities be encouraged to pass Tree By-laws.*

Action taken on Recommendation: The ROP includes policies to encourage and support area municipalities to protect forest areas and to enact By-laws to protect forests, woodlands and quality trees. Currently Aurora and Vaughan have enacted Tree By-laws. In Newmarket, a draft Tree By-law is under consideration. A Tree-By-law may go into effect in Whitchurch-Stouffville by the end of 2005 if approved by council.

York Region has had a Tree By-law in place since 1991. The York Region Forest Conservation By-law was enacted by Council in May of 2005, replacing the existing Tree By-law. The by-law prohibits or regulates the destruction or injury of trees in woodlands in The Regional Municipality of York. The intent of the By-law is to protect forested areas of regional significance and to encourage reforestation to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the residents of York Region.



3.2.7 LAKE simcoe

Recommendation 13: *Recommended that the Region continue to work with area municipalities, other municipalities in the Lake Simcoe drainage basin, and the LSRCA to improve the quality of Lake Simcoe including the reduction of phosphorus in the lake.*

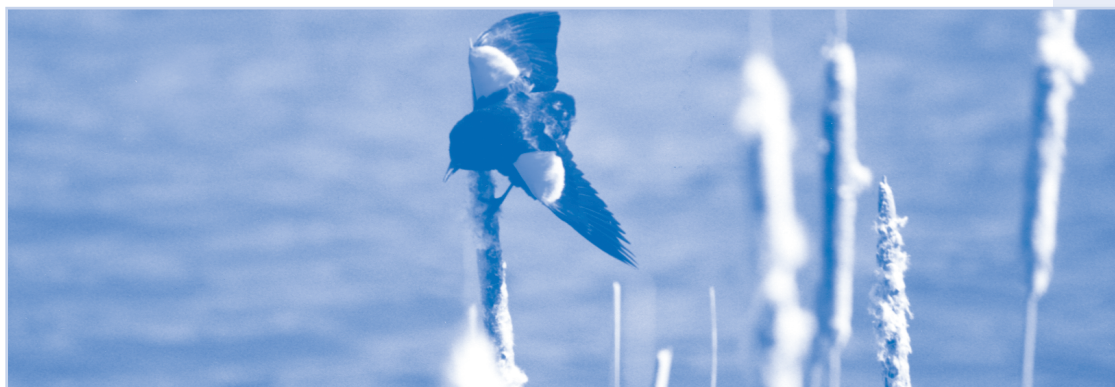
Action taken on Recommendation: York Region and the LSRCA formed “A Natural Partnership” in July 1999 to implement recommendations from the York Region Report Card. Through this program, a number of important projects were funded including:

- the Watershed Management Strategy for the East Holland River which identified areas suitable for future urban growth, while maintaining and enhancing the ecological health of the watershed;
- the Maskinonge River Watershed Strategy;
- the Landowner Reforestation Program which is concentrated on priority lands in the watershed; and
- the Lake Simcoe Water Quality Improvement Program (LSWQIP) which provides private landowners with the technical and financial support they need to undertake remedial projects, as part of the Save Lake Simcoe Program.

The total cost of projects completed through this partnership is more than \$350,000. York Region provided \$120,000 and the remainder was provided by LSRCA through its municipal partners and private landowners.

York Region continues to be a member of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS). This is a program to identify and measure the sources of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe, and to evaluate and recommend remedial measures designed to reduce these inputs and take action towards cleaning up the lake.

The current status of Lake Simcoe is addressed in section 5.3 of this report.





3.2.8 WATER quantity

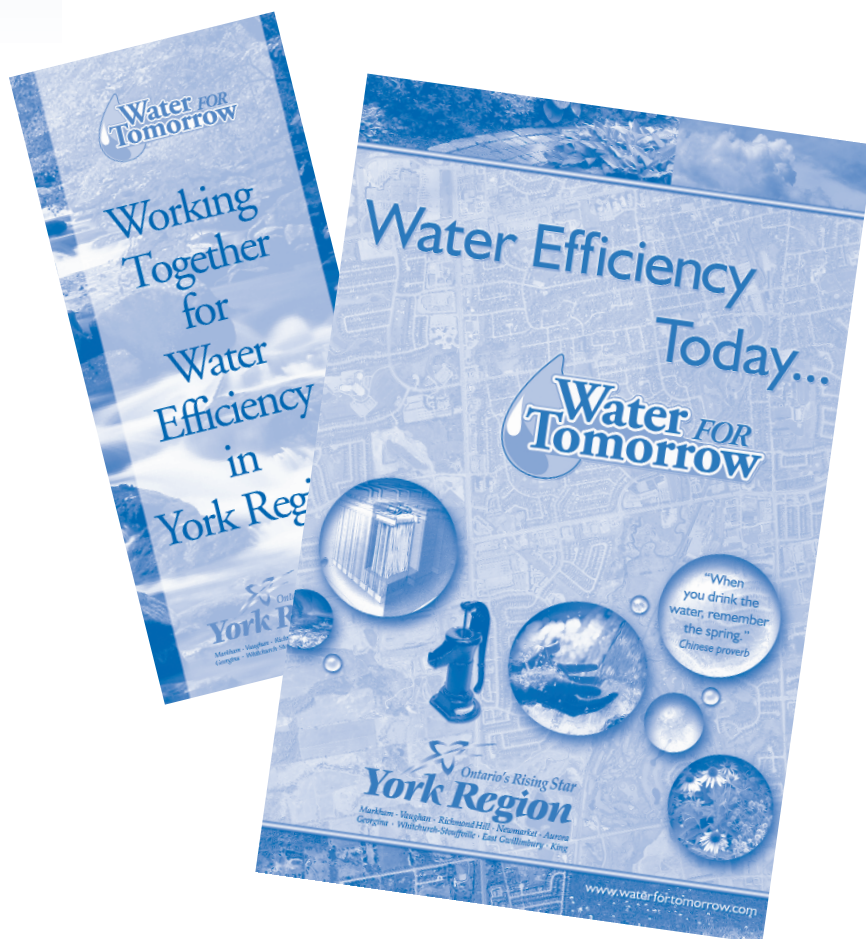
Recommendation 14: Recommended that the Region continue comprehensive water efficiency initiatives to reduce non-essential use of treated drinking water.

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region's water efficiency program, Water for Tomorrow, is one of the largest and most comprehensive programs of its kind in North America. As of December 31, 2004, 77,955 households, 14,305 businesses, and 195 schools had participated in the program. Water for Tomorrow representatives visited houses, apartments and small businesses and installed 245,000 early closing toilet flappers and 106,000 low flow showerheads. An estimated 22,400,000 litres of water was saved daily in 2004.⁴

Comprehensive water saving audits have been carried out on 60 industrial and York Region institutional facilities. Through the program all 1,800 kilometres of watermain in York Region have been inspected, tested for leakage and repaired. This has saved over 8 million litres of water per day.

Other Water for Tomorrow initiatives are aimed at teaching people how to reduce water use in landscaping and educating children about water efficiency. The program provides free landscape audits and information for homeowners interested in reducing water use in their gardens and yards. Through the annual York Children's Water Festival, grade 4 and 5 students learn about water efficiency, water protection and related environmental issues with over 50 interactive curriculum-based activities. Approximately 5,000 students attend this event each year.

The current status of water use and conservation in York Region is addressed in section 5.1 of this report.



3.2.9 WATER quality

Recommendation 15: *Recommended that the Region continue to use the most effective technologies in new water supply infrastructure to meet the highest practical water quality standards.*

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region introduced state-of-the-art water treatment technology with the building and commissioning of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant on the shores of Lake Simcoe. The plant uses a membrane system, Canadian technology that replaces the flocculation tank, and clarifier and granular media filters that are typically found in conventional water treatment facilities. The system, which automatically cleanses itself, significantly reduces the amount of chemicals and associated equipment required with conventional water treatment.

Recommendation 16: *Recommended that the Region continue to use the most effective technologies in new wastewater treatment systems to meet the highest practical effluent quality standards.*

Action taken on Recommendation: Ninety percent of all wastewater produced in York Region is treated at the Duffin Creek Pollution Control Plant in Pickering, via the YDSS. The YDSS was constructed in the 1970's by the Government of Ontario to provide an environmentally superior, more cost effective system than using small local systems. The YDSS was the first in North America to be registered under ISO 14001, an internationally recognized Environmental Management System. Other municipalities have since followed York Region's lead. In order to maintain its ISO status, YDSS must pass an annual audit by a qualified external auditor.

Two wastewater treatment plants have been completely re-constructed since 2000 to meet the needs of a growing population base - the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant in the Town of Georgina completed in 2005, and the Water Pollution Control Plant in Mount Albert in 2004. These plants now use newer technologies, including energy efficient motors.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by York Region to ensure that water and wastewater systems continue to be leading edge. These include:

- two Master Plans have been completed - one for water and the other for wastewater systems between 2000 and 2005;
- \$1.2 billion has been allocated for water infrastructure and \$1.058 billion for wastewater infrastructure over the next 10 years (2005-2014);
- the "OPTimize Works Program" has been implemented to identify areas of best practice so that a high level of service is maintained; and
- staff continually upgrade their skills to consistently exceed regulatory requirements.

Recommendation 17: *Recommended that the Region encourage area municipalities and Conservation Authorities to continue implementing stormwater treatment in new developments and consider strategies to retrofit stormwater treatment technologies in existing developments.*

Action taken on Recommendation: It is the policy of Regional Council, as expressed in the ROP, to cooperate with area municipalities, conservation authorities and other agencies in the preparation of watershed planning initiatives to:

- recommend appropriate stormwater management techniques, including but not limited to, Best Management Practices, the use of natural vegetative drainage corridors, and the use of permeable surfaces; and



PROJECT of the YEAR AWARD

In February 2005,
The Regional Municipality of
York received the Ontario
Public Works Association's
(OPWA) prestigious Project of
the Year Award (Environment
category) for the Sutton
Water Pollution Control Plant
in the Town of Georgina.





3.2.9

WATER **quality** continued

- identify the form and constraints under which development may be permitted and provide guidelines for development, design and construction.

Area municipalities have been undertaking stormwater retrofit studies and have been retrofitting stormwater management facilities since 2000. In addition to this, municipalities have been working to improve management practices, such as regular cleaning of catch-basins, reductions in use of road salt and pesticides, sewer rehabilitation, and erosion control to improve water quality.

The current status of stormwater, wastewater and sewage in York Region is addressed in section 5.8 of this report.



3.2.10

AGRICULTURAL **practices**

***Recommendation 18:** Recommended that the Region work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to encourage area farmers to use best agricultural practices.*

Action taken on Recommendation: In 2001, in response to a request from the GTA Federations of Agriculture, the Regions of York, Halton, Peel and Durham and the City of Toronto set up a GTA Agricultural Working Group. The aim of the Working Group is to promote the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the GTA. One of its first endeavours was to work with the GTA Federations of Agriculture to jointly fund a GTA Agricultural Profile Update. In March and November 2003, the GTA Agricultural Working Group and the GTA Federations of Agriculture hosted a workshop and a symposium to discuss the actions necessary to sustain agriculture in the GTA. The result was a GTA Agricultural Action Plan, which was endorsed by the Federations of Agriculture and the four GTA Regions. The next step will be the formation of a GTA Agricultural Action Committee, which will oversee the implementation of the Action Plan.

Agricultural land use and agricultural practices in York Region are addressed in section 4.6 of this report.

3.2.11 SOLID waste

Recommendation 19: *Recommended that the Region continue to work with area municipalities to explore more effective systems for waste diversion that will increase the overall diversion rate for solid waste.*

Action taken on Recommendation: The Region aims to divert at least 50% of municipally-collected solid waste from disposal as part of its Waste Management Strategy. To achieve this, implementation of a system to collect and process household organic waste is a priority goal. The Region has secured 60,000 tonnes/year of food waste diversion capacity to support the start up of municipal programs to collect source separated household organic waste.

York Region has also expanded the blue box program to capture additional materials including empty paint cans, aseptic and gable top containers (such as those used for milk), aluminium foil, aerosol cans, plastic tubs and lids and #3-7 rigid plastic containers. The Region is also exploring the addition of styrofoam, plastic film and plastic packaging (blister pack) to the blue box collection. Appropriate sites are being sought for local community environmental centres to provide residents with drop off points for reusable and recyclable items that can not be handled through the blue box (e.g., children's toys, wood, carpeting).

In 2005, area municipalities have switched to a "co-mingled" blue box in which home owners do not need to separate recyclables from each other. "Co-mingling" creates the opportunity for area municipalities to reduce their collection costs, as the various recyclables no longer need to be sorted into compartments on board the truck at the curb.

Also in 2005, plastic bags for diversion of yard waste are no longer accepted, and homeowners across the Region now use biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers instead.

In 2001, York Region launched an Electronic Equipment Recycling Pilot Project. The program has 4 drop off locations and is free to any York Region resident.

A new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility was opened in May 2005 in Vaughan, replacing the City of Toronto's HHW facility at the Keele Valley Landfill Site, which was closed at the end of 2002. A new Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury opened on July 4, 2005. This \$28 million state-of-the-art facility is designed to handle the Region's 3-stream collection system (i.e., blue box, household organic waste and garbage). The Region is also working with area municipalities to expand the distribution of backyard composters and host community re-use events.

The current status of waste management in York Region is addressed in section 4.9 of this report.



YORK REGION'S NEW MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

The Region's new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is 103,000 square feet in size, and has a processing capacity of over 90,000 tonnes-per-year. The MRF is designed to receive co-mingled blue box material that is collected using bags, carts or blue boxes. The system gives the Region the maximum flexibility for handling future changes. State-of-the-art processing equipment is used to sort the material into marketable grades of paper, steel, aluminium, glass and various grades of plastic. The processed recyclables are then baled and shipped to various markets to be used for making new products such as clothing, lawn edging, boxboard, roofing shingles, and new bottles and cans.





3.2.12

AIR quality

Recommendation 20: *Recommended that the Region continue to develop and implement a Corporate Clean Air Strategy aimed at improving air quality.*

OTHER INITIATIVES RELATED TO AIR QUALITY

Air quality is identified as a priority or a co-benefit in the following Regional policies, initiatives and strategies:

- 20/20 The Way to Clean Air
 - Active and Safe Routes to School Program
 - Corporate Energy Services Program
 - Energy Environmental Management System
- Green Procurement Plan - GIPPER (Governments Incorporating Procurement Policies to Eliminate Refuse)
 - Growth Management Strategy
 - GTA Clean Air Council Member
- Membership in the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Membership in the Partners for Climate Protection Program
- Pesticide Reduction Guidelines
 - Regional Official Plan
 - Smart Commute Program
 - Transportation Master Plan
 - Vision 2026
- Water for Tomorrow Program
 - York Rapid Transit Plan
- York Region Greening Strategy

Action taken on Recommendation: The Region has made significant advances in terms of reducing emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases from Regional activities and operations.

Corporate Clean Air Task Force

In March 2000, Council adopted the "Corporate Model for Clean Air" Report, which directed that an inter-departmental committee be formed to develop corporate and community-wide action strategies to improve air quality in York Region.⁵ In December 2004, the Region launched its Corporate Clean Air Task Force. The Task Force was given a mandate to develop department-specific Corporate Clean Air Actions, and to incorporate the resulting Action Plans into a comprehensive Regional Air Quality Policy. The goals of the Task Force are:

- to identify specific, measurable and achievable corporate actions to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- to demonstrate leadership in air quality and other environmental initiatives related to emissions throughout York Region, and to encourage area municipalities, York Region residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate such initiatives into their activities and operations.

Five Working Groups have been established to focus on: Smog Alert Response, Energy and Green Procurement, Natural and Built Environment and Greening Strategy, Transportation Fleets and Transportation and Works - Planning and Infrastructure. The Working Groups are responsible for identifying and recommending clean air actions, initiatives and strategies for consideration by the Task Force. External stakeholders are also involved in the Task Force process. It is expected that a draft Regional Air Quality Policy will be presented to Council in 2006.

Current air quality in York Region is addressed in chapter 6 of this report.

3.2.13

transportation

Recommendation 21: *Recommended that the Region continue to promote the development of an effective, integrated transit system within the Region and across the GTA.*

Action taken on Recommendation: The first significant action that the Region made towards this recommendation is the amalgamation of the existing local transit services to create York Region Transit (YRT) in January 2001. Since then the

amount of service has more than doubled and ridership has increased by more than 10% each year since amalgamation. YRT has also expanded service to all area municipalities in York Region. Significant progress has been made since 2000 in developing the Viva rapid transit system, integrating it with YRT service, and by improving the links to GO Transit and the transit systems of the other GTA Regions.

3.2.13 transportation

continued

Viva

Through the Viva rapid transit system, York Region is addressing the issues of rapid growth and transportation gridlock. Viva will help to sustain economic growth, contribute to the health of the environment, and improve quality of life for future generations.

Viva is being delivered in a three-phased approach over a 20-year period:

- Phase 1 of Viva (“Quick Start”) began in the fall of 2005, and is expected to shift over 7,000 commuter trips per day from cars to public transit;
- Phase 2 will be implemented over an eight-year period following completion of the environmental assessments for the rapid transit corridors; and
- Phase 3 will address Growth Related Expansion by evaluating the rapid transit network, ridership, population, employment levels, land use and travel patterns before 2011.



GO Transit

GO Transit provides train service to and from Union Station in Toronto for commuters in York Region. There are 25 daily train trips, serving 14 train stations, on three rail lines, operating Monday to Friday.

Transit riders can access York Region Transit GO shuttle services to get to most GO Train Stations and access any local transit route that connects at a GO Train Station.

The current status of transportation in York Region is addressed in section 4.8 of this report.

Hybrid Bus Demonstration Project

In November 2004, York Regional Council approved the addition of four hybrid buses to the YRT fleet, to participate in a one-year hybrid bus demonstration project. The project will evaluate the operating performance, costs and viability of the buses as part of YRT's conventional service.

The nearly noiseless buses are battery powered, with a small diesel engine to slow battery discharge. While the bus is operating in battery mode, there are no vehicle emissions.

The \$7.4 million overall cost of this project will be borne by York Region, the Centre for Sustainable Community Development, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Overland Custom Coach (OCC) and BET Services.

GO TRANSIT STATIONS in YORK REGION

AURORA
CENTENNIAL
EAST GWILLIMBURY
(Green Lane and 2nd Concession)
KING
LANGSTAFF
MAPLE
MARKHAM VILLAGE
MILLIKEN
MT. JOY
NEWMARKET
RICHMOND HILL
(Newkirk)
RUTHERFORD
STOUFFVILLE
UNIONVILLE





3.2.13 transportation

continued

Recommendation 22: *Recommended that the Region continue to encourage higher density residential and commercial development and encourage closer live/work relationships.*

Action taken on Recommendation: On January 23, 2003 York Regional Council approved the creation of the York Region Centres and Corridors Growth Management Strategy. This strategy, to be implemented by the Region as well as local area municipalities through a number of local planning tools, will create an urban structure that includes compact development, and mixed residential and commercial use centres in Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan linked by Viva along four key transportation routes. These corridors have the greatest opportunity to add new housing units, employment and services in a mixed-use form that is supportive of higher order transit services.

These new Regional centres or “Transit Villages” are expected to be vibrant, compact, pedestrian-friendly, and containing a diverse mix of commercial, residential and employment activities that serve as the Region’s “downtowns”. High quality architecture and streetscaping will be a priority. Innovative designs can incorporate stations and terminals into their surroundings and facilitate shared uses with hospitals, shopping centres, offices, entertainment districts and residential developments. Viva will also connect to three subway terminals in Toronto, located at Downsview, Finch and Don Mills. Distinct urban and local centres are also identified in local official plans, including Old Woodbridge in Vaughan and Unionville in Markham.

As land use patterns in York Region mature into more sustainable forms, population and employment densities will increase and transit ridership will grow proportionately. Additional segments of higher-capacity rail-based rapid transit will likely be required to accommodate this growth.

Recommendation 23: *Recommended that the Region promote the development of other alternatives to reduce automobile use such as pedestrian systems, use of bicycles, work at home and car pooling.*

Action taken on Recommendation: York Region has promoted the reduction of automobile use through the following:

- Walk to School Day and the Iwalk Club (part of the Active & Safe Routes to School Program) in which schools encourage students to walk to school;
- the Bus It Program in which York Region Transit partners with school boards to provide bus transportation to schools;
- participation in the annual Windfall Ecology Festival promoting Clean Air Day and use of Public Transit;
- supporting the development of Transportation Management Associations, known as Smart Commute;
- leading the GTA and Hamilton Smart Commute Initiatives;
- promoting 20/20 The Way to Clean Air;
- participating in the Commuter Challenge and Clean Air Commute; and
- a Trip Reduction Program.



3.2.13 transportation

continued

Transportation Management Associations (TMA's) are non-profit, member-controlled organizations aimed at providing sustainable transportation solutions as well as improved mobility and accessibility. They generally operate in a specific development area that is defined by a particular economic activity or by natural or physical boundaries. TMA's provide a framework from which travel demand management (TDM) programs can be promoted, applied and managed. The central objective of programs is to change travel behaviour by reducing single-occupant vehicle trips. This is achieved by promoting services that encourage more efficient use of the existing transportation infrastructure and services, including:

- transit improvements such as convenient transit routings and transit stops with shelters;
- rideshare matching (carpool) and vanpool program;
- guaranteed-ride-home program;
- shared parking coordination;
- marketing and promotion of alternative transportation modes and services;
- pedestrian and bicycle network and facility planning; and
- shuttle services.

Smart Commute is the GTA-wide program to co-ordinate all of the TDM activities and to provide assistance and guidance to the TMA's. York Region is playing a key role within Smart Commute. Presently there are two Regional TMA's in operation, Smart Commute North Toronto, Vaughan (formerly known as Smart Commute Association of Black Creek) and Smart Commute Markham/Richmond Hill 404-7. Another TMA is being developed in the area of Newmarket/Aurora.

Alternatives to automobile use are further addressed in section 4.8 of this report.

3.2.14 THE REGION AS leader

Recommendation 24: *Recommended that the Region consider declaring its buildings "Green Buildings" and develop programs to reduce its corporate impact on the natural environment.*

Action taken on Recommendation: A number of significant initiatives have taken place since 2000 aimed at making Regional buildings "greener" or more environmentally friendly.

Building Audits and Energy Feasibility Studies

Since 2003, the Regional Municipality of York has undertaken corporate-wide Building Energy Feasibility Studies. The objective of these is to save electricity, natural gas and water in Regional buildings. Implementation of the measures identified in the studies is phased, starting with the York Region Administrative Centre.

Energy and Environmental Management System

The Region's energy conservation efforts have been recognized with a FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Award for excellence and innovation in municipal service delivery that has advanced sustainable community development. After reviewing off-the-shelf products, the Region decided to create its own in-house software tool to measure the energy and environmental performance of its municipal operations. The Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) captures information on all facilities, street and traffic lights, water and wastewater treatment, power generation, and transportation. Users can automatically upload electronic files containing energy data to EEMS where the information is passed through data and bill verification checks. Through licensing agreements with other area municipalities, the Region will recover the cost of the software's development.⁶





3.2.14

THE REGION AS **leader** continued

Sustainable New Building Design

The Region is developing a Sustainable Building Program including a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) policy statement for new buildings as well as energy-efficiency guidelines. Currently all new Regional buildings are designed to be 25% more efficient than the Model National Energy Code for Buildings and meet LEED certification in promising applications. A new Fire/Emergency Medical Services station in the City of Vaughan is currently being designed to achieve the LEED Silver designation. York Region has also built several new buildings to meet high performance standards. For example, Housing York Inc. recently built a new housing facility that is 60% more efficient than code and the new Bales Drive Transportation & Works Operation Centre features a state-of-the-art lighting control system.

Purchasing Procedures

York Region is also a supporter of Governments Incorporating Procurement Policies to Eliminate Refuse (GIPPER). GIPPER is a committee formed by the former Metropolitan Toronto government in 1989. Today, under the City of Toronto, it has representation from municipalities, school boards, hospitals and provincial ministries. Its aim is to encourage governments to incorporate environmental considerations into purchasing procedures, especially those that help to reduce solid waste. GIPPER does this through the development of purchasing guidelines and the production of information such as the 2002 GIPPER Guide.⁷ Governments purchase large amounts of material. By supporting procurement policies that encourage the purchase of environmentally preferable products such as those that contain recycled materials and that are less toxic, The Regional Municipality of York is lowering its corporate impact on the natural environment and demonstrating environmental leadership.

In summary, The Regional Municipality of York, in conjunction with its partnering agencies and organizations has made tremendous progress on the 24 recommendations contained in the SOE 2000 Report. The Region constantly balances the need to provide services for a continually growing population with the desire to sustain and enhance York Region's natural environment. Information regarding specific Regional initiatives is found in Section 3.1.

The following section, 3.3, outlines some of the major environmental initiatives undertaken by the area municipalities since 2000.



3.3

MAJOR MUNICIPAL and
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

environmental initiatives SINCE 2000



- 3.3.1 Aurora
- 3.3.2 East Gwillimbury
- 3.3.3 Georgina
- 3.3.4 King
- 3.3.5 Markham
- 3.3.6 Newmarket
- 3.3.7 Richmond Hill
- 3.3.8 Vaughan
- 3.3.9 Whitchurch-Stouffville
- 3.3.10 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- 3.3.11 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority





3.3.1 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES AURORA

AURORA ANTI-LITTER PROGRAM

The purpose of the Town's Anti-Litter Program is to encourage community-minded citizens and businesses to participate in cleaning up the Town. Participation ranged from manually picking up litter to providing supplies such as bags and gloves or funds for promotion. The program identifies litter pick up times, as well as areas that need extra attention.

Some of the benefits this program provides are:

- 2.76 tons of garbage was collected in 2004 with approximately 500 volunteers
- 1.86 tons of garbage was collected in 2005 with approximately 400 volunteers (less than 2004 due to inclement weather)
- over 3,000 students participated in the clean-up
 - continue to receive calls requesting participation for the next clean-up day and inquiries for the clean-up kits that residents are encouraged to obtain

LSRCA

AWARD OF merit

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and its Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy Partners awarded the 2005 Award of Merit to the Town of Aurora for the Kennedy Street and Deerhorn Crescent Stormwater Management Facility.

The facility demonstrates the Town's commitment to our natural water resources, by helping to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Lake Simcoe by an estimated 37.2 kilograms per year. This represents a significant step in protecting and restoring Lake Simcoe, which is a \$200 million annual economic resource and source of drinking water for five communities.

The following were action items associated with the project:

1. **Create a Sediment Forebay and associated wetland** to trap particulate matter and absorb nutrients.
2. **Reconstruct the Facility Inlet and Install a New Diversion Structure** to collect runoff from previously uncontrolled residential lands.
3. **Establish an Extended Detention Pond** to hold, polish and slowly release waters back into the natural environment.
4. **Construct a New Outfall Channel** to minimize impacts on Tannery Creek.
5. **Plant Native Trees and Shrubs** to further reduce nutrient loading, improve water quality and enhance local wildlife habitat.

Benefits further to those described above include: Controlling stormwater runoff from 37.2 hectares of previously uncontrolled land, improving water quality by approximately 67% and enhancing wildlife habitat along Tannery Creek and the East Holland River.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is to act as an Advisory Committee of Council on matters relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment. It is intended to be a catalyst for local initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, integrity and conservation of our resources and ecosystems as well as provide input to protect, maintain, restore and enhance the environment and our common natural heritage within the Town.

The EAC is also intended to endeavor to create a practice of stewardship within the community towards our open spaces, parks and woodlots. Some of the duties and functions of the EAC include:

- Act as a link between citizens, Town Staff and government to facilitate resolution of environmental concerns and to assist in developing projects that will enhance our community environment.
- Identify changing needs, bring forward and recommend appropriate actions to deal with environmental issues.
- Work at building relationships and establish partnerships with interested environmental organizations and individuals.
- Provide advice to Council on environmental policies, procedures and regulations.
- Encourage the acquisition of environmentally sensitive areas through conservation easements and other mechanisms.
- Assist in the promotion of green space, environmental restoration, environmental rehabilitation and enhancement projects.

3.3.1 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES AURORA

OTHER

Highlights

- Inventory analysis of the environmental features within the lands known as 2C: identification of environmental features to be protected, buffers and linkages between features in a future urban area which is approximately 565 hectares in size.
- Homeowners Manual: prepared by developers and distributed to all new homeowners, this contains important suggestions on environmental protection. To date, the total number of manuals distributed is 906.
- Pesticide Reduction: over the past three years, the Town has drastically reduced use of pesticides and does not spray until a complaint is received and an investigation has taken place. Insecticidal soap is used rather than insecticides.
- Naturalization: the Town is pursuing a policy of naturalization along stream banks and passive open spaces to assist with stream bank erosion, ultimately allowing nature to take its course. Infilling is done with native trees/shrubs.
- Salt Management: a salt management plan will minimize the use of and adverse impacts of winter road salt.
- Vehicle Emissions: the Town is working at reducing vehicle emissions by:
 - Installing traffic circles to reduce stops/starts to reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions by up to 40%
 - Purchasing two new upgraded vans to allow use of power tools/lights etc. with the motor off
 - Commissioning a Fleet Management Study which also looks at greening of the Town's fleet
- Bicycle Paths: examples of the Town's work toward increased bicycle use are:
 - Putting in bicycle paths where/when possible (e.g. Regional road reconstruction).
 - 10 kilometres of bicycle paths have been, or will be added, over the next 3 years.
 - Provision of wider road platforms in the new urban areas
 - Publishing a map/plan showing bicycle path routes/trails

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- For information about Aurora's Blue box, recycling program, composting and yard waste collection please call our Public Works Department, at (905) 727-3123, extension 4370
- For information about Aurora's Adopt-A-Park program, please call (905) 727-1375, extension 522



For more information, please visit us at www.town.aurora.on.ca or call (905)727-1375 or (905)727-3123





3.3.2 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES EAST GWILLIMBURY



Town of
East Gwillimbury

TREE PLANTING EVENTS

East Gwillimbury's Parks and Recreation Department co-ordinates annual tree planting events in the Town.

Other special events, such as trail walks and trail building workshops, are organized by the East Gwillimbury Trails Committee.

These events serve to heighten public awareness of the environment and the need to protect and nurture it.



RECYCLING AND LANDFILL diversion

The Town of East Gwillimbury has actively and progressively worked with the Region of York as the host Municipality to accommodate and promote the establishment of major facilities in the Bales/Garfield Wright industrial area aimed at improving the overall diversion rates for waste management throughout the Region. A Hazardous Household Waste facility has been established for items such as batteries and paint cans.

More recently the Town has worked to provide the timely and efficient approvals for the recently opened Material Recovery Facility (MRF) which will process an expanding recycling program for the Town and the Region.

The Town of East Gwillimbury continues to promote and encourage recycling. The Town's waste management program has achieved a 27% diversion rate for recycled materials and aims to improve this statistic in the future.

For the last five years, the Town, in conjunction with the Environmental Services Committee has held a "Non-Blue Box Plastics Collection Day".

The 2005 event was attended by over 300 residents of the Town.



MUNICIPAL FACILITY

Energy Audit

The Parks and Recreation Department conducted a Municipal Facility Energy Audit in 2001.

All operating systems at 11 Town facilities were reviewed and recommendations for energy conservation were made.

As a direct result of this audit, lighting and heating/cooling systems were retrofitted, buildings were weather-proofed and an automated ice plant control system was installed at the municipal arena complex. These activities have resulted in energy savings.

3.3.2 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES EAST GWILLIMBURY

OTHER

Highlights

- **Queensville Community Plan:** The community of Queensville is planned to be the centre of growth in East Gwillimbury. Over 500 acres of land have been identified as part of a diverse open space system for leisure uses and compatible open space functions. This will be augmented by the parks system. In Spring 2004, the Town completed a review of the Plan to identify additional areas for protection.
- **Protecting the Moraine:** Official Plan Amendments regarding conformity with the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act have received final Ministerial approval. These amendments provide a high level policy direction in terms of protecting and enhancing key natural heritage features and functions on the moraine.
- **In 2005, a Recycling Program** was introduced for plastic, glass and cardboard in various Community Centre facilities
- **Non Blue Box Plastics Collection Day:** In May 2005, over 300 people attended this event to collect plastics not accepted in the blue box. Over 4 bins of plastics were collected.
- **Clean Up, Green Up Days:** Vendors, demonstrations and information on environmental issues.
- **Integrated Pest Management:** Initiation of IPM practices in parks operations with the goal to minimize the use of pesticides.
- **Environmentally friendly suppliers:** Corporate Services is on contract with a toner supply company that carries a wide range of environmentally friendly, remanufactured products. This company also recycles all packaging materials and picks up and disposes of empty cartridges.
- **Donation of old computers:** When computers are no longer adequate for the Town's use, they are donated to Computers for Schools Ontario (CFSO). CFSO salvages all working parts and gives them to Ontario Schools. Defective parts are disposed of properly.
- **Agenda Preparation Process:** Each department can now submit their respective agenda items via an electronic route, instead of photocopying and submitting items manually. This has greatly reduced paper usage, as well as toner use and electricity consumption.
- **Salt Management Study:** The Town's Engineering Department is preparing a Salt Management Study which is designed to reduce the overall environmental impact of the use of salt as part of winter road maintenance.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- **Blue Boxes** can be purchased from the Town Engineering Department for \$8.30 each. Call 905-478-4282 for more information.
- **Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Depot:** Located at 95 Bales Drive (North of Davis Drive between Woodbine and Warden Ave.) Town of East Gwillimbury. For more information call 905-895-1200 or 705-437-3921, extension 3039 or visit our web site at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/municipal/hazard.htm
- **Garbage and Recycling Collection Calendar** is available online at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/municipal/pdf%20files/2005%20Garbage%20Collection/Calendar.pdf
- **Garbage and Recycling Collection Map** is available online at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/municipal/pdf%20files/2005%20Garbage%20Collection/Collection%20Map.pdf
- **East Gwillimbury's Environmental Advisory Committee and Trails Advisory Committee** are always looking for new volunteers who have a little free time to contribute towards improving the Town. If you would like to help, please call 905-478-4282 or e-mail town@eastgwillimbury.ca
- **Students** can complete their community service volunteer work by helping East Gwillimbury's Environmental Advisory Committee. Call 905-478-4282 or e-mail town@eastgwillimbury.ca
- **Not sure where a park facility is located in East Gwillimbury?** Call the Parks and Recreation Department, 478-4282, for directions, or stop by the office for a copy of one of our community facility maps. There are 27 park locations throughout the Town.

For more information, please visit us at www.eastgwillimbury.ca or call (905)478-4282





3.3.3 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES GEORGINA



TOWN OF
GEORGINA

GEORGINA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee (GEAC) was established in 2003 to provide staff and Council with a source of independent advice and expertise from the local community, and serve as an advisory body to promote the stewardship, preservation, conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

In addition, the GEAC seeks public input on environmental issues, undertakes projects on behalf of the Town, provides feedback on issues, and undertakes educational initiatives that promote environmental awareness.

Since its inception, the GEAC has proved to be an invaluable resource for the Town and will continue to play a prominent role in local decision-making into the future.

HEALTH OF LAKE SIMCOE Mayor's Forum

In 2004, Town of Georgina Mayor Robert Grossi hosted a forum that brought together over 40 citizens, politicians and stakeholders from such governmental and non-governmental organizations as:

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Foundation, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, Alliance for a Better Georgina, The Wave, Innisfil District Association, Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee, First Nations, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Aurora, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Brock, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Innisfil, Kawartha Lakes, King, Newmarket, Orillia, Oro-Medonte, Uxbridge, and York Region.

The event included presentations and discussions on the significant issues affecting Lake Simcoe and promoted the use of comprehensive strategies and initiatives to improve its long-term health.

Following this forum, Town of Georgina Council passed a resolution requesting that the Province establish a liaison group comprised of various stakeholders to establish priorities for the rehabilitation of Lake Simcoe and to work on its long-term sustained health.

In this respect, the Provincial government is being encouraged and lobbied to take a more active role in the issues facing the Lake Simcoe watershed.



TOWN OF GEORGINA Official Plan 2002

An important achievement of the Town of Georgina's new Official Plan was the implementation of the Town's Natural Features and Greenlands System Study (1996) into a comprehensive set of environmental guiding principles, objectives, policies and land use designations. Three classifications of Environmental Protection Area (EPA) designations were created to reflect the varying degrees of environmental sensitivity and need for protection.

The EPA 1 designation corresponds to the most ecologically sensitive natural features such as significant wildlife habitat, significant woodlands, wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and Environmentally Significant Areas.

The EPA 2 designation corresponds to natural heritage corridors such as ravines, valleys, rivers and streams.

Lastly, the EPA 3 designation corresponds to natural connecting links such as early-to-mid, and mid-to-late successional forests less than 4 hectares in size, and transitional and unclassified vegetation.

The Official Plan uses an ecosystem approach to planning to ensure that environmental, economic and social factors are balanced in the decision-making process to guide land use and development over the next 20 years to ensure a healthy and sustainable community for the present and future residents of Georgina.

3.3.3 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES GEORGINA

OTHER

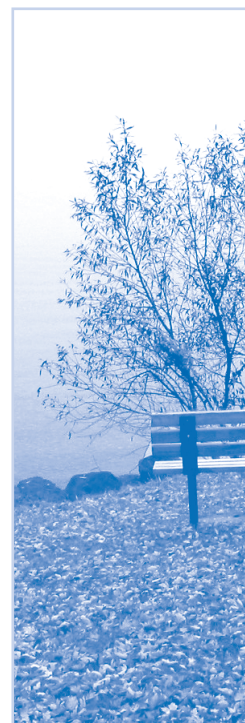
Highlights

- Annual swap and sell event to help promote the reuse of goods and materials and to divert waste from landfills
- Annual Pitch-In week to clean up roadside ditches and ravines
- A new recycling program for used cell phones, and toner and inkjet printer cartridges
- A new recycling program for electronic equipment at the Georgina transfer station
- Increased frequency of yard waste collection
- Urban Forest Management - initiation of best management practices approach for the management and sustainability of boulevard and park trees, including a tree planting program
- Landfill Afforestation Plan - working with the community to reforest the Town's former landfill site
- Water and Sewer Project - in partnership with all levels of government, all communities and residents (approximately 7000 people) along the lakeshore between Keswick and Jackson's Point are being serviced with municipal water and sanitary sewers (www.georginawater.ca)

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Waste and recycling information is available at the public libraries, the Civic Centre, and online at www.town.georgina.on.ca
- Composters are available at the Georgina Ice Palace
- Blue Boxes are available at the public libraries and the Civic Centre
- Used cell phones and printer cartridges are recycled at the Civic Centre
- Additional recycling available at the Georgina Transfer Station, which includes garbage, yard waste, scrap metal, appliances, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic equipment, cardboard and other recyclables

For more information, please visit us at www.town.georgina.on.ca or call (905)476-4301 or (905)722-6516. In the 705 area code call (705)437-2210





3.3.4 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES KING TOWNSHIP



K I N G ENVIRONMENT DAY

King Environment Day is an environmental education fair open to the public, which is organized by the King Environmental Advisory Committee.

The event is held annually and provides a forum for encouraging environmental awareness, education, and interest.

The day's events include key-note speakers, as well as many displays from environmental organizations and interactive activities for children, as well as distribution of pesticide-free lawn signs and the sale of composters and blue-boxes.



DUFFERIN MARSH Open Space Management Plan

The Dufferin Marsh Public Open Space Management Plan is a plan to guide the long term restoration, enhancement, and management of the Dufferin Marsh wetland ecosystem, located within the village of Schomberg.

The overall goal is to establish the Dufferin Marsh wetland as a prominent local ecological and recreational amenity in Schomberg by balancing environmental

conservation, protection and enhancement of the wetland with public access, recreation and interpretive initiatives.

Public acquisition of the lands and pathways and signage has been completed, while monitoring, restoration and education initiatives continue.



KING

Environmental Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of King has established an Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC). The KEAC is a group of community members and local citizens appointed by Council which is to act as an advisory body and resource group to the Township Council and staff regarding ways to protect, restore, maintain, and enhance the environment.

The KEAC has been operating since April 2002. The work of KEAC has made

contributions, such as: a Pesticide Free lawn campaign, and research into the implementation of a tree protection by-law. The KEAC is currently pursuing waste diversion initiatives.

The primary function of the KEAC is to raise the general interest and awareness of the condition of the natural environment in King Township.

3.3.4 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES KING TOWNSHIP

OTHER

Highlights

- Amendments to the Official Plan, Zoning By-law, and Fill By-law to conform with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
- Pesticide-Free Lawn and Public Education campaign
- Township Salt Management Plan - reduced usage of road salt
- King Township Clean-Up Day - litter collection
- Township Policy for Pesticide Use on Public Lands - minimizes use of pesticides and herbicides
- Installation of municipal sanitary sewers in King City and the completion of an Environmental Assessment for the installation of municipal sanitary sewers in Nobleton - to address malfunctioning private septic systems
- Participation in "Communities in Bloom" competition to green and beautify the Township - successfully advanced to compete at the National level
- King Summit - discussed economic development initiatives aimed at attracting environmentally friendly and green industry

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Composters (\$25) and Blue Boxes (\$10) are available for purchase at the Township Offices, 2075 King Road, King City, 905-833-5321.
- Yard Waste Collection Days are offered in the Spring and Autumn. Days vary by neighbourhood and can be confirmed by contacting the Township at 905-833-5321

For more information, please visit us at www.township.king.on.ca or call (905)833-5321





3.3.5 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES MARKHAM

MARKHAM MISSION GREEN

In 2004, Markham Council unanimously approved a waste diversion target of 70% and established Markham's new Mission Green waste diversion program featuring a 3-Stream collection system. Markham's diversion target is the highest in Ontario.

The Mission Green 3-Stream program includes an expanded Blue Box recycling system, a "Green Bin" for kitchen and bathroom organic materials, and 'residue' garbage which is collected every two weeks. Residue is limited to 3 bags.

In November 2004, Markham residents using the Green Bin diverted 72% of their waste. Mission Green will next expand to include multi-residential buildings, Town facilities and schools.

Detailed information on Markham's Mission Green program can be found at www.markham.ca.



MARKHAM CENTRE as a Sustainable COMMUNITY

Markham Centre will eventually be home to over 25,000 residents and 17,000 employees. Envisioned as a sustainable "growth managed" community based upon the principles of mixed land use and transit-supportive development, Markham Centre will be pedestrian oriented and offer live-work opportunities with all the amenities of an urban lifestyle. Creation of a successful urban centre represents a change from traditional "greenfield" planning, as well as a shift in mindset for developers, business owners, residents, politicians, as well as Town planning and design staff.

The Markham Centre Advisory Committee has developed a Performance Measures Document which is a comprehensive checklist of key objectives and measurable

indicators for developers to measure their project and for the public and government to grade each development.

A key component of achieving the sustainability objectives for Markham Centre is the District Energy network which is being expanded to connect to most major buildings within the plan area.

To convey and promote the principles and benefits of the new Centre, Markham staff has undertaken an aggressive public communications and education program commencing in early 2002.

MARKHAM Energy Conservation Office (MECO)

The Town of Markham has recently established the Markham Energy Conservation Office (MECO), an initiative that demonstrates leadership and that will provide the community with programs, education, tools and targets to foster an energy efficient municipality - a champion seeking to do the right thing for the environment by reducing energy consumption and saving money by reducing electricity costs. The objectives of MECO are:

- To become the energy conservation local champion and, an example for all of Canada;
- To enhance Markham's local energy supply and reduce its dependency on the traditional electricity grid; and,
- To make Markham more energy efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

MECO will help achieve these objectives by working with PowerStream Inc., Markham

District Energy Inc., local businesses, residents and the broader community. PowerStream is funding six MECO programs, including; the Better Buildings Partnership, Cool Shops, Advancing High Performance Buildings, MECO@Home and MECO@Work Employee Awareness, the Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS), and Combined Utility Metering.

These programs are designed to showcase local leadership, educate and encourage Markham residents to conserve energy, leverage partnerships, and achieve measurable conservation targets. Markham's goal is to reduce its overall electricity consumption by 5% in 2007 and 10% in the year 2014.

In addition, MECO is expected to produce significant cost savings for the Town and after three years, reduce CO₂ emissions by 5,800 tonnes towards the Kyoto objectives.

3.3.5 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES MARKHAM

OTHER

Highlights

- Anti-Idling Education Program and By-law
- Bicycle Master Plan and Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Celebrate Our Environment
- Communities in Bloom (winner 2005)
- Compact development in Cornell Centre in the Avenue Seven corridor
- Contaminated Lands Policy Review
- Corporate Environmental Management Plan
- Environmental Land Securement Fund
- Environmental Policy and Review Consolidation Study
- Green Fleet Transition Plan
- Green Procurement Policy
- Green Roof Installations
- GTA Clean Air Committee and Clean Air Commitments
- Integrated Pest Management Program and Pesticide By-law
- Kyoto Task Force
- Markham Conservation Committee
- Markham District Energy Facility
- Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund
- Mayor's Green Building Challenge
- Museum demonstration wetland environmental education programs
- New Environmental Policies
- Oak Ridges Moraine Policies
- Pesticide Reduction and Control
- Pomona Mills Creek Environmental Rehabilitation Task Force
- Reforestation and Replanting efforts
- Retrofit of Stormwater Management Facilities
- Salt Management Plan
- Small Streams Study
- Smog Alert Response Plan
- Solar Thermal Feasibility Study
- Trail and Pathway Master Plan
- Travel Demand Management and Employee Trip Reduction Program
- Tree Preservation By-law study
- Water Use Education Program and By-law
- West Nile Virus Monitoring Program

For more information about these and other environmental initiatives happening in Markham, please visit www.markham.ca

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Home Composting Program -compost bins for \$30.00 at the Town's Recycling Depots.
- Community Recycling Depots in Unionville, Thornhill, Markham and Milliken Mills, accept blue box items as well as additional materials.
- Compost Giveaway in spring and fall at Milliken Mills Community Centre parking lot.
- Special waste collection specific days throughout the year for yard waste pick up, Christmas Tree pick up and no tag days allowing additional garbage.
- Pitch In Clean Up Program assists community groups with public lands clean up in the Town.
- Adopt a Park Program supports community groups becoming stewards of public parks.
- Commemorative Tree Planting provides sites and plaques for community members planting a commemorative tree.
- Susie and Eco-Susie Awards provided to business and residential properties that promote beauty and pride in front yard gardens including an ecologically based award for naturalized yards.
- 20 Minute Make Over occurs on Earth Day and supports groups and individuals doing litter pick up for 20 minutes in parks, workplaces and schools.

For more information, please visit us at www.markham.ca or call (905)477-7000





3.3.6 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES **NEWMARKET**



NEWMARKET ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council approved the establishment of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC) as a permanent committee in August 2004.

NEAC acts as an advisory body and resource group to the Town of Newmarket Council and staff in planning and operational matters on ways to inventory, protect, maintain, restore and enhance the environment.

Through its activities, NEAC hopes to encourage citizens to be more environmentally conscious and to be aware of measures that help to improve the environment.

Ultimately, it is anticipated that citizens of Newmarket, through their individual and collective efforts, will provide a sustainable environment for future generations.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Environmental Protection and Natural Heritage Preservation

Newmarket Council adopted a Community Strategic Plan in 2004 that provides guidance and direction to Council, Staff and the Community targeted towards environmental sustainability. Various projects and initiatives have been formulated, enhanced and continue to be developed as a result of the adoption of the Plan.

Natural Heritage Study

In 2003, the Town and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority completed a natural heritage study. The natural heritage study documented the natural heritage features within the Town and indicated opportunities for protection, preservation and enhancement of the Town's natural environment.

As a result approximately 68 hectares of natural heritage and open space lands in the northwest have been retained and protected from urbanization. Council, with the foresight to recognize the significance of environmental preservation, established land securement practices to enable further environmental land securement. Since 2003, 1% of property taxes have been dedicated to securing environmental lands. It is under these securement practices that Council has been successful in obtaining an additional 28 hectares of environmental lands, of which

an additional 4.5 hectares of land in the northwest quadrant were secured in 2004 with assistance from the Region through the Greenlands Property Securement Program.

Tree Preservation, Protection, Replacement and Enhancement Policy

The Town of Newmarket adopted the "Tree Policy" in October of 2004 to preserve, protect, replace and enhance significant, mature trees on lands subject to the development approval process. It is the intent of the Tree Policy to educate and increase awareness within the development industry of the importance of tree preservation and protection for the health of the community by encouraging:

- the consideration of the location of existing trees in the design of development plans prior to the submission of development applications;
- the ongoing protection of trees during development activities on properties subject to development applications;
- no net loss of trees through the planting of replacement trees; and
- the planting of additional trees to enhance development properties and streetscapes beyond the requirements of boulevard trees.

BE ENERGY AWARE

Challenge

The Town of Newmarket encourages its businesses and residents and other municipalities to follow its lead to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases.

The Town partnered with Honeywell Canada to audit and retrofit Town facilities to help the Town lower greenhouse gas emissions and utility costs by targeting heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and lighting in the following facilities: Ray Twinney Complex, Newmarket Municipal Offices, Gorham and McCaffery Street fire halls, Newmarket Youth & Recreation Centre and Kinsmen Sk8Park and the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place.

Honeywell guarantees the savings generated from reduced utility bills will pay for the facility upgrades and if not, Honeywell will

contribute the difference. If the savings exceed the cost of the program, the money will go back to the Town. This initiative protects the environment through supporting/endorsing various energy efficiency programs, such as:

- Energy Innovators Initiative
- Commercial Building Incentive Program
- Industrial Buildings Incentive Program (IBIP)
- Industrial Energy Audit Incentive
- Home Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants
- Conserve Campaign
- ENERGY STAR qualified products
- One-Tonne Challenge

3.3.6 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES **NEWMARKET**

OTHER

Highlights

Newmarket Council's continued commitment and support of environmental initiatives is evident in their participation and support of the following initiatives:

- Draft Anti-Idling Bylaw
- Bank Stabilization for Holland River
- Clean-air Policy
- Eco-Housing Proposal
- Environmental Investigation Reports (EIR's)
- Installation of Fountains to Aerate SWM Ponds
- Garbage Bag Tag Program
- Goose Management Program
- Green Fleets Strategy
- Green Procurement Policy
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction - Heating and Ventilation
- Holland River Clean-up Event
- Official Plan Review -Intensification/ Land Use Efficiency Policies, Environmental Policies
- Mega-Watt Challenge
- Natural Heritage Study
- New Tree Plantings Program
- Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Conformity Exercise
- Pesticide Use - Policy for public lands; private lands currently under review
- Phosphorous Loading Reductions
- Acquisition and Retention of Open Space Lands
- Recycling Dead Trees
- Re-naturalization of Town (Sunoco Earth Day)
- Repair Our Air Challenge
- Annual Replacement Tree Plantings Boulevard Trees
- Retro-fitting SWM Ponds
- Salt Management Plan
- Scout Cedar Woodchip Trail Program
- Smart Commute - Newmarket Transportation Management Association
- Standing Water Bylaw
- Support Green Energy Initiatives
- Tom Taylor Trail Extensions
- Connecting Trail Program
- Tree Arboretum at Fairy Lake
- Draft Tree Bylaw
- Tree Planting
- Turf Maintenance -Aerating Soil, Top Dressing, Over seeding
- WAVE Support

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

Garbage & Recycling Schedule:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_266_I.html

Information and Education on Grasscycling and Leaf Mulching: http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_2148_I.html

Blue Box Recycling Program: http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_265_I.html

Composting:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_355_I.html

Garbage Tags/Stickers, Blue Boxes & Composters:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_264_I.html

Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_263_I.html

White Goods (Appliance) Collection:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_262_I.html

Yard Waste Collection:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_260_I.html

Items Not Suitable for Collection:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_259_I.html

Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline:

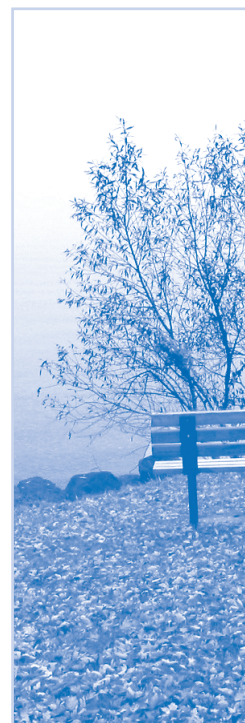
http://www.diabetes.ca/section_services/collection.asp

Help the Canadian Diabetes Association by donating your used clothes and household goods.

Curbside Giveaway Days:

http://www.newmarket.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_I_1137_I.html

For more information, please visit us at www.newmarket.ca or call (905)895-5193 or toll free 1-877-550-5575





3.3.7 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES RICHMOND HILL



ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Town of Richmond Hill's vision is to be an environmentally sustainable community.

The Engineering & Public Works Department is committed to a high standard of environmental management for all the services it provides. A comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) is being developed which will meet the requirements for certification under the international ISO 14001 Standard.

Benefits of the environmental management system include programs to replace hazardous paint and solvents with more environmentally sustainable alternatives, reduce impacts associated with road salt application, improve stormwater management and construction site practices, upgrade the Town's refueling outlet, improve building and fleet energy efficiency and enhance drinking water protection practices.

CLEAN AIR Initiatives Plan

How can a municipality that will more than double its 1990 population by 2009 achieve its Kyoto Target? The Town of Richmond Hill's Clean Air Initiatives Plan is seeking to do exactly that.

In 2003, after many years of participation in Clean Air programs, the Town began developing a Local Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection program.

The Plan was completed in April 2004, becoming the first Council approved Local Action Plan in Southern Ontario. Implementing the plan has already resulted in some early success stories.

Richmond Hill is also working to achieve the GHG reductions to meet Kyoto targets, including consideration of the entire energy supply and use cycle as well as point of use reduction of emissions.

Preliminary wind energy power studies indicate there is potential for three or four turbines on Town owned lands with a total capacity of up to 8 Megawatts - electricity for approximately 2500 homes, with opportunities to deliver wind generated electricity into the local grid. A further study will confirm the project's potential.

Combined with the Town's 'Local Action Plan to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions' a successful wind power project could allow the Town to achieve its Kyoto target.

NATURAL HERITAGE Strategy

The Town of Richmond Hill Natural Heritage Strategy is a management plan which guides the preservation and enhancement of over 450 ha of Town-owned open space land. The Strategy includes biological and physical inventories, descriptions of recommended conservation and restoration projects, as well as an operations and maintenance plan, community involvement and awareness strategy, monitoring program and policy recommendations.

The Natural Heritage Strategy includes many initiatives that promote community stewardship and public awareness to further natural area preservation and enhancement. Community involvement

initiatives include an Encroachment Strategy, the creation and distribution of five information brochures, and numerous restoration events (e.g. trail improvements, clean-up events, and tree and wildflower planting events - over 50,000 trees and shrubs have been planted through the combined efforts of the Town and residents).

The Natural Heritage Strategy has become an important document for ensuring the protection and enhancement of ecological features, while providing for safe recreational and educational opportunities associated with natural areas.



3.3.7 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES RICHMOND HILL

OTHER

Highlights

- Anti Idling Program
- Clean Air Initiatives Local Action Plan
- Composting Program
- Corporate Smog Alert Program
- Green Fleet Activities
- Groundwater Monitoring
- GTA Clean Air Council Member
- Lake Wilcox Remediation Strategy, Monitoring Program and Lake Stewardship Program
- Mayor's Megawatt Challenge
- Natural Heritage Conservation and Restoration Projects
- Natural Heritage Monitoring and Inventory
- Outdoor Environmental Education
- Road Salt Management Plan
- School Yard Naturalization Program
- Smart Commute 404-7 Initiative
- Street Tree Program
- Streetlight Conversion Program
- Town Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
- Town Pesticide Reduction Program
- Town Staff Transportation Initiatives
- Trails Master Plan
- Walks on the Wild Side
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Monitoring Program
- Wind Power Feasibility Study

For more information about these and other environmental initiatives happening in Richmond Hill, please visit www.town.richmond-hill.on.ca or call the Manager of Environmental Programs at (905) 771-5505

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- **CLEAN AIR**
Smart Commute 404-7 Initiative. Contact the Development Coordinator Transportation at (905) 771-2455 for information.
Energy Conservation programs. Contact the Manager of Environmental Programs at (905) 771-5505 for information.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**
Walks on the Wild Side. Contact the Natural Heritage Coordinator at (905) 771-8870 for information.
Outdoor environmental education programs. Contact the Manager of Arts, Culture & Heritage at (905) 787-1441 for information.
- **LAKE WILCOX**
Request information on Lake Wilcox. Contact the Manager of Environmental Programs at (905) 771-5505.
- **NATURAL HERITAGE**
Volunteer for tree planting and naturalization programs. Report concerns about natural areas or wildlife issues. Help create community gardens. Contact the Natural Heritage Coordinator at (905) 771-8870 for more information.
- **TRAILS**
Request trail maps and information from the Natural Heritage Coordinator at (905) 771-8870.
- **URBAN FORESTRY**
For tree pruning and to identify tree disease, contact the Urban Forestry Supervisor at (905) 884-8013 x4405.
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT**
To purchase a backyard composter, attend a composting seminar, pick up a blue box or for questions regarding waste collection, please contact the Waste Reduction Coordinator at (905) 884-8013.



For more information, please visit us at www.town.richmond-hill.on.ca or call (905) 771-8800





3.3.8 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES VAUGHAN



The City Above Toronto

PESTICIDE-FREE P O L I C Y

In 2001, Council approved a pilot study to observe parks within Wards 4 and 5 as they became pesticide-free.

The following actions were implemented: non-chemical weed controls, organic fertilizers, manual weed control, turf maintenance and increased grass cutting. This pilot study was subsequently extended to Ward 2 for another two years of study. An educational flyer was developed and distributed to new homeowners in Vaughan, at special events and through the Vaughan Environmental Action Committee.

In 2005, the City of Vaughan will be implementing its pesticide policy city-wide to all publicly owned lands.

Benefit: Reduction in health risks associated with pesticide usage.

WOODLOT Acquisition Strategy

In 2000 with the approval of Official Plan Amendment 600 (OPA 600), the Woodlot Acquisition Strategy was approved which is a proactive approach to protecting tableland woodlots and associated buffers by acquisition through the development process.

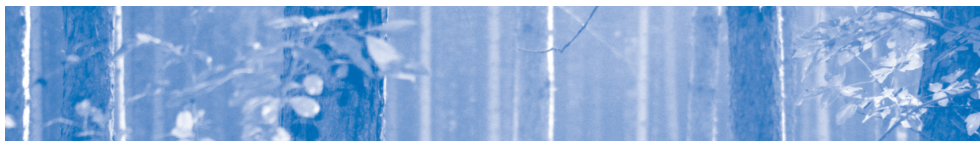
Through the implementation of OPA 600 policies, the City plans to protect approximately 300 acres of tableland woodlot resources within its new urban communities of Vellore and Carrville.

The primary mechanism used to implement the strategy was a front-ending agreement, which establishes a non-escalating special area charge of \$1,000 per residential unit.

The accumulated funds are used by the City to acquire designated woodlots from their owners in the new urban areas at a fixed rate of \$150,000 per acre. The City assumes ownership of these woodlots either at the time of registration of a plan of subdivision, or upon final approval of consent.

To date, the Woodlot Acquisition Strategy has been very successful, having acquired 40% of the 300 acres of tableland woodlots to be protected. The acquisition of the remaining woodlots is slated to proceed in concert with land development.

Benefit: Protection of natural heritage features



ALTERNATIVE WINTER DE-ICING Materials and Salt Management Plan

Winter road salting is the most effective method of controlling ice conditions, however, it also has impacts on the environment. For the past four winters, the Public Works Department has experimented with new ways of limiting the amount of salt being spread.

All salting equipment has computerized spreading devices that control and limit the quantity of salt to match the weather conditions, road widths and traffic volumes. The goal is to spread only the amount of salt necessary to do the job.

To further reduce the amount of salt use, between 2002 and 2004, the City has been experimenting with alternate de-icing materials. The product being tested stays on the road surface longer, particularly on high volume roadways. Applied at rates 20 per cent less than straight salt, the product has proven to be as, if not more effective, in maintaining the roads in a safe condition.

The elimination of sand from the winter de-icing mixture in urban settings has reduced the amount of sediments entering ponds and streams from storm sewers outfalls, and has reduced the amount of materials to be cleaned from the road and disposed of in landfills. In addition, the elimination of sand will improve the general air quality by reducing the amount of airborne particulate matter.

A Salt Management Plan (SMP) was developed and approved by Council in April 2005. The SMP together with the annual road salt report will be submitted to Environment Canada annually.

Benefit: Protection to plants, wildlife, lake and stream ecosystems and groundwater. Improvements to air quality.

3.3.8 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES VAUGHAN

OTHER

Highlights

- Access Kyoto Information Resource
- Anti-Idling Initiatives
- Anti-Litter Initiatives
- Asian Long-Horned Beetle
- Bartley Smith Greenway & William Granger Greenway
- Biodiesel Usage in City Fleet
- Clean Water Collection System
- Community Safety Village of York
- Communities in Bloom
- Contaminated /Potentially Contaminated Sites Policy
- Continuous Water Quality Monitoring
- Demand Side Management & Demand Response Programs
- GTA Clean Air Council Member
- Landfill Gas Collection
- Maple Nature Reserve
- Municipal Facilities Retrofits & Green Procurement
- New Vaughan Civic Centre
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
- Oakbank Pond Restoration
- Outdoor Water Use By-law 122-2003
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Planning and Urban Design Studies
- Standing Water By-law 143-2003
- Stormwater Management Pond Design Guidelines
- Transit Supportive Community Plans
- Tree Protection By-laws
- Water Meter Change-out Program

For more information about these and other environmental initiatives happening in Vaughan, please visit www.vaughan.ca

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- **Adopt-a-Park Program**
Community groups, schools, associations and businesses may adopt a park keeping it safe from vandalism and garbage free.
- **Backyard Composter Program**
Purchase composters year round at the Public Works Department and at special events, such as Public Works Week Kick Off.
- **Cash for Trash Contest**
A contest to award members of the public spotted picking up and disposing litter.
- **Free Mulch Giveaway**
The Forestry Department mulches all trees removed from parks and open spaces. Free mulch giveaways in the spring and fall.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Depot**
The new Household Hazardous Waste Depot at the Joint Operations Centre in Maple accepts household hazardous waste items such as paints, pesticides, batteries, mercury thermostats, used motor oils and filters, fuels, cleaning products, electronic equipment, etc.
- **Leaf and Yard Collection**
To divert waste from landfill, leaf yard material, are not permitted in household garbage. Leaf and yard collection runs from the beginning of April to the end of November.
- **Tree Dedication Program**
Residents are encouraged to purchase a tree to be planted in parks, along roads or on boulevards to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, milestone or other special event.
- **Greening Vaughan**
A comprehensive waste management strategy with a goal of 60% diversion of waste from landfill by 2028.
- **Smart Commute North Toronto/Vaughan**
Assisting employers and other trip generators to implement alternative transportation solutions to the single occupant vehicle.
- **Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program**
Vaughan partnered with the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement on a program to assist small and medium-sized manufacturers in improving economic and environmental performance through pollution prevention planning



For more information, please visit us at www.vaughan.ca or call (905)832-2281 or (905)832-8585



3.3.9 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE



PRESTON LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Residents of Preston Lake are actively involved in restoration activities and monitoring of the water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitats in their community primarily through the efforts of the volunteer organization Pride in Preston Lake Inc.

In 2003 they partnered with the Town, Region, York Environmental Stewardship Council, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Rouge Park, Human Resources Canada, TD Friends of the Environment and the TRCA to prepare a Preston Lake Management Plan. The plan was completed in 2005 and provided recommendations on healthy water quality and quantity, shoreline enhancements, landform conservation, habitat expansion, goose management and lawn care.

A companion "how to" resource guide was also prepared and circulated to residents providing practical information as they work to implement the plan.

NATURAL HERITAGE MONITORING plan

A prerequisite of the development of the Stouffville Community Plan was the preparation of Functional Servicing Studies (FSS). The FSS contain recommendations for water quality control, erosion and sediment control, and protection of wetland areas. An environmental monitoring program - the Natural Heritage Monitoring Plan- was prepared to collect data to ensure these recommendations were met. It also provides for the long term assessment of the environmental impacts of development within the subwatersheds and gauges the success of management strategies in mitigating those impacts.

Five components of the monitoring program include Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring, Water Quality and Temperature Monitoring, Erosion Monitoring, Monitoring of Wetland Areas and Functions and Erosion and Sediment Control Monitoring.

Council approved the Monitoring Plan in 2003 with base line monitoring occurring in 2003 and 2004. The program will be funded by the Stouffville Developers Group as a Draft Plan of Subdivision Condition. Annual reporting will summarize data collection, identify abnormalities or inconsistencies in data and recommend modifications where appropriate. Based on conclusions of the monitoring program the Town may revise its stormwater management criteria for unapproved lands or, where feasible, retrofit facilities to further protect the cold water status of the Little Rouge, Duffin and Stouffville Creek watersheds.

COMMUNITY

Environmental Initiatives

Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is home to a diverse natural setting including large tracts of forest, kettle lakes, cold water fisheries and wetlands. Its residents take pride in their environment and are involved in local initiatives such as:

- Ballantrae Park Naturalization Program- residents from the Ballantrae Musselman Lake area naturalized Ballantrae Park through native tree plantings, and habitat construction for amphibians and birds;

- Vandorf Park - bank stabilization and shade tree planting; and
- The Environmental Advisory Committee provides advice and recommendations to Council on a wide variety of issues such as composting, recycling, pesticide use, and litter.

3.3.9 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

OTHER

Highlights

- Acquisition and retention of Open Space lands
- Anti Idling By-law
- Draft Tree By-law
- Fill Control By-law
- Garbage Bag Tag Program
- Master plan for bicycle paths and routes in Stouffville
- Mayors Earth Day: tree planting and open space clean-up
- New urban development designed to promote transit usage
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Conformity Exercise
- Pesticide-free policy for municipal lands
- Provision of traffic circles in new developments to assist in reduction of vehicle emissions
- Retrofit of Stormwater Management Facilities
- Road Salt Management Plan
- Street tree replacement program
- Streetlight dark sky design criteria
- Trail master plan for Community of Stouffville to promote walking
- Urban Design Manual - Compact Development
- West Nile Virus Program

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Blue boxes can be purchased from the Public Works Department. First box is free, additional boxes for \$7.50. Call 905-640-1900 for more information.
- Garbage and recycling collection calendar and map is available on line at www.townofws.com.
- Recycling depot located on Park Drive South, adjacent to the Stouffville sewage treatment plant. Open Thursday and Saturday mornings.
- Yard waste collection increased to seven collections per year.
- Large Article Collection (white goods).

For more information, please visit us at www.townofws.com or call (905)640-1900 or (905)895-2423





3.3.10 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES

LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



LAKE SIMCOE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This program provides technical and financial assistance to complete a wide range of conservation projects, including clean water diversion, restriction of livestock from watercourses, manure storage systems, cropland and streambank erosion control, milkhouse waste water treatment, tree and shrub planting, cover cropping, wellhead protection and decommissioning, and pond retrofits.

The primary focus of this program is the reduction of surface water pollution, particularly the amount of phosphorus, draining into Lake Simcoe from urban and rural sources.

A secondary goal, the protection of our groundwater resources, has also been introduced in recognition of emerging issues associated with source water protection.

URBAN Stormwater Retrofits

Urban stormwater runoff is a significant source of phosphorus in the Lake Simcoe watershed, contributing approximately 27 tonnes each year to the lake.

Efforts to reduce phosphorus loads from these existing urban areas need to be implemented to achieve the phosphorus target of 75 tonnes per year, a reduction of approximately 25 tonnes.

This involves developing urban stormwater management strategies to identify uncontrolled urban areas, opportunities for retrofits of stormwater control facilities, and strategies for implementation.

In York Region, stormwater strategies have been developed for the towns of Aurora and Newmarket, as well as Sutton, and a portion of Keswick.



LAKE SIMCOE

Basin-Wide Watershed Plan

The Lake Simcoe Watershed Plan is being developed to adopt a pro-active and holistic approach to protecting existing natural resources. This will assure sustainability and eliminate the need for costly rehabilitation works in the future.

To further improve on the quality of natural areas in the watershed, the plan will also look at areas in need of restoration, and

explore new and innovative techniques to accomplish our goals.

The Watershed Plan is being developed in four phases: Environmental Assessment Tool, Ecosystem Analysis, Resource Management: Rehabilitate (identification of restoration opportunities), and the Implementation Strategy. The plan is scheduled to be complete in 2007.

3.3.10 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

OTHER

Highlights

- **Monitoring Program:** helps to track seasonal long term trends in the chemical and biological indicators used to assess the health of the Lake Simcoe ecosystem; the effectiveness of remedial measures; and the lake's response to various activities occurring within the watershed.
- **Holland Marsh Water Quality Improvement Project:** when completed, innovative technologies will be used to decrease phosphorus loads from the Holland Marsh.
- **Subwatershed Planning:** more specific than the basin-wide plan, these help to protect natural resources in each subwatershed.
- **Outreach opportunities:** education of watershed residents is important in helping to preserve and restore the quality of the Lake Simcoe watershed.
- **Yellow Fish Road Storm Drain Marking Program**



SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Conservation areas (17 in York Region)
- Outdoor and environmental education programs (at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area) Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/ConservationAreas/mapScan.html for details and directions.
- Plan input and review Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/Permits/planinput%26review.html for details.
- Flood and fill regulation Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/Permits/flood%26fill.html for details.
- Flood forecasting and flood control Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/Permits/floodforecasting.html for details.
- Engineering services Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/Permits/engineering.html for details.
- Mapping of hazard lands Visit www.lsrca.on.ca/Permits/index.html for details

For more information, please visit us at www.lsrca.on.ca or call (905)895-1281





3.3.11 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**TORONTO AND REGION
Conservation**
for The Living City

LAND and WATER STEWARDSHIP

TRCA has nearly 50 years of planning and implementing in-the-ground projects including water quality improvements, forest establishment, habitat enhancement, barrier mitigation for fish passage, plant propagation and other environmental improvements. TRCA also provides services to private landowners and groups who are responsible for the management of land and water resources. The services offered include a program to engage new Canadians in environmental programming; in-class educational programs; private land stewardship programs that provide information and resources for lawn care and reforestation; and an educational water festival.

All of these programs have the long term aim to increase residents' environmental knowledge, change attitudes and influence behaviors to achieve sustainable communities.

In York Region between 1999 and 2005 TRCA revegetated 195 ha (482 acres) with a variety of deciduous trees and shrubs and coniferous seedlings.

KORTRIGHT The Living City Centre



The Living City is one of the most ambitious programs in North America targeting sustainable development for a city region. The sustainability of city regions is key to the future of the planet. There are three components of The Living City Centre initiative: the Campus; The Living City Centre building; and the community transformation programming. These components work together to help business, government and the community to initiate and support movement towards sustainability.

The Living City Campus is to become one of the largest concentrations of green buildings in North America. The Campus has already attracted the Earth Rangers Centre, a state of the art wildlife

rehabilitation hospital and education facility, and one of the most energy efficient buildings in Canada. The Campus will act as a catalyst, demonstrating and accelerating green building design and construction across the Toronto region, and beyond.

The centre brings together leadership and the community to identify and eliminate barriers to sustainable practices and technology, and achieve broad objectives related to clean air, clean water, safe and healthy living and working environments, affordable living, and economic opportunity.

The campus, facilities and programming of The Living City Centre offer expertise, resources, demonstrations, and tools, to serve as a catalyst and focal point for sustainable thinking and action. As the heart of sustainable living in the Toronto region, The Living City Centre engages the whole community to make sustainable urban development a reality.

TRCA

The objective of the TRCA Natural Heritage Lands Protection and Acquisition Project is:

to acquire property interests, whether by fee simple, leasehold, easement, covenant, or stewardship agreements, in hazard, conservation and environmentally significant land in order to protect against unwise land use which would affect their ability to perform their natural functions and to conserve these lands for the benefit of the people within the Authority's watersheds.

These lands also provide an excellent opportunity for local and regional recreational and educational opportunities.

Natural Heritage Lands

TRCA Land in York Region:

Humber	2341 ha
Don	140 ha
Rouge	1002 ha
Duffins	49 ha
Total	3532 ha

(910 hectares of these lands were acquired between 1999 and 2004.)



Little Rouge River, Rouge Park

3.3.11 MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

OTHER

Highlights

- Watershed planning in partnership with municipalities to meet the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Act.

Current environmental information is being collected to prepare integrated management plan that will assist with managing surface and groundwater, water use, and aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The Duffins Creek Plan has been completed. The Rouge and Humber updated watershed management plan are in progress.

- Flood Line Mapping - Maintenance of hydraulic models and digital flood line mapping, to reflect changes associated with channel and flood plain works, road crossings and revisions to flood flow information. This information is used to reduce flood risk to people and property.
- Flood Forecasting and Warning - Preparation and maintenance of the GTA flood forecasting model and warning system to ensure high levels of preparedness and emergency response.

- Regional Monitoring program collects and maintains current information on the condition of rivers in York Region. Data is available for invertebrates, fish, and water quality, to name a few parameters.



SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE public

- Conservation areas:
www.trca.on.ca/parks_and_culture/
- Outdoor and environmental education programs:
www.trca.on.ca/learning_education/
- Plan input and review:
www.trca.on.ca/planning_permits/
- Flood and fill regulation:
www.trca.on.ca/planning_permits/permit_applications/
- Flood forecasting and flood control:
www.trca.on.ca/water_protection/protection/
- Regional monitoring and reporting service:
www.trca.on.ca/juturna/

For more information, please visit us at www.trca.on.ca or call (416)661-6600



