

5

RENAMING REGIONAL ROADS TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends that following report, June 5, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works be deferred pending receipt of a communication plan with the Town of East Gwillimbury:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83), from Yonge Street (Y.R. 1), formerly Highway 11 to Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13); Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13) from Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) to Bradford Street (Y.R. 13); and Yonge Street (Y.R. 51) from Bradford Street (Y.R. 13) to Queensville Sideroad (Y.R. 77), all to be named “Old Yonge Street” (Y.R. 51).
2. Council approve the notice provision set out and staff be directed to follow these procedures.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to obtain Council authority to initiate the renaming of these Regional Road sections to eliminate the confusion between Yonge Street (Y.R. 1), formerly Highway 11, and Yonge Street (Y.R. 51).

3. BACKGROUND

The Region has received a number of comments and concerns over the confusion with four different roads in East Gwillimbury being named Yonge Street (see *Attachment 1* for a map showing these locations):

1. Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) formerly Highway 11
2. Yonge Street (Y.R. 51)
3. Yonge Street south of Doane Road
4. Yonge Street at Ravenshoe Road

Emergency Services (Police, EMS and Fire) have confirmed a potential safety concern.

At its meeting of February 21, 2005, the Town of East Gwillimbury Committee of the Whole Council adopted their Emergency Services Department Report and Resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Emergency Services Department Report EMS2005-04 dated February 21, 2005, regarding Street Name Changes be received and adopted; and

THAT the Region of York have the Yonge Street signs removed from Morning Side Road and Bathurst Street intersections on Regional Road #1 and be appropriately signed as Regional Road #1;

THAT the current Holland Landing Road from Regional Road #1 (Newmarket Inn) to 18643 Holland Landing Road be named Yonge Street with Holland Landing Road ending at the Stop Sign (19050);

THAT the old section of Yonge Street from 18691 to 19011 (the gravel road) be named Old Yonge Street;

THAT the portion of Yonge Street running south of Doane Road (9737-19706) be renamed to a name agreeable to the residents;

THAT Yonge Street running south from Ravenshoe Road be renamed to a name agreeable to the residents;

THAT residences and business be compensated by the Region of York for reasonable expenses for address changes resulting from changing of street names;

THAT the Town of East Gwillimbury Engineering and Transportation Department install signs at the entrances to Cotton Court (Sand Road and Oriole Drive) to indicate numbering addresses continues off Sand Road and/or Oriole Drive.;

THAT the Town of East Gwillimbury, Engineering and Transportation Department install signs at Church Street and Christopher Street indicating that Christopher Street continues one block north (same as East Street) and Christopher Street at School Street indicating Christopher Street continues one block south.

This report and resolution were placed on the Transportation and Works Committee agenda on April 6, 2005 and were received and referred to staff for a report.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Yonge Street was first established in 1796 by John Graves Simcoe and is recognized as the longest street in the world. It extends from Toronto, Front Street, 1,896 kilometres to Rainy River. Yonge Street's 200th anniversary was celebrated in 1996.

In York Region, sections of the original alignment were by-passed to allow Yonge Street to pass around Lake Simcoe which has resulted in two separate Yonge Streets. The original Yonge Street is broken into several sections and causes confusion, especially for emergency services. *Attachment 1* shows the different sections.

Presently, the road names for Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83), Yonge Street (Y.R. 51), Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), and the Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) that is formerly known as Highway 11 have been causing confusion to Emergency Services and the residents.

4.1 Town of East Gwillimbury Proposal

Regional staff has completed a review of the Town of East Gwillimbury proposal to rename sections of Yonge Street to avoid the current confusion. Although the Town's proposal eliminates the duplication of the Yonge Street name, it also proposes to rename a section of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) that is part of the road that has been recognized as Yonge Street for many years. Even if this was to occur, this section of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) would still be referred to by the public, as Yonge Street.

The Town of East Gwillimbury has proposed renaming Yonge Street (Y.R.1) formerly Highway 11 from Morning Sideroad to Bathurst Street to "Regional Road 1". It is also proposed that the portion of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) from the (Newmarket Inn) to 18643 Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) be renamed "Yonge Street" with Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) ending at the Stop Sign (19050) where the intersection was recently reconstructed. It is proposed that the renaming of the roadway that is part of Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), and Yonge Street (Y.R. 51), be determined by the residents. The old gravel portion of Yonge Street would be renamed "Old Yonge Street". A location map of the Town East Gwillimbury renaming proposals is shown in *Attachment 2*.

4.2 York Region Proposal

Regional Staff reviewed the proposal from the Town of East Gwillimbury and made some changes that are shown in *Attachment 3*. The Region proposal was presented to YRP, EMS, East Gwillimbury Fire Department, East Gwillimbury staff who all agreed that the Regional staff proposal best addressed potential safety concerns.

Since the reconstruction of the intersection of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) and Mount Albert Sideroad (Y.R. 13), Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) is no longer a through road, and the section of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) that runs south to Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) formerly Highway 11 now connects north to Mount Albert Sideroad (Y.R. 13). This reconstruction has changed the flow of the roadway, and presented the ability to rename this entire section of road with the same name, Old Yonge Street (Y.R. 51). Regional staff is suggesting that the through road that extends from Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) formerly Highway 11 all the way north to Queensville Sideroad (Y.R. 77), be named "Old Yonge Street" (Y.R. 51). By naming this continuous roadway "Old Yonge Street" (Y.R. 51), it will help differentiate the road from the existing Yonge

Street (Y.R. 1) formerly Highway 11. For a location map detailing the suggested renaming by York Region, see *Attachment 3*.

Due to the recent reconstruction of the intersection of Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) and Mount Albert Road (Y.R. 13), the Town of East Gwillimbury could rename this small gravel portion of Yonge Street to “Holland Landing Road”. Holland Landing Road (Y.R. 83) now directly connects to this old portion of Yonge Street.

The Town of East Gwillimbury could also leave the renaming of this small gravel portion of Yonge Street up to the residents. The name “Historical Yonge Street” has been suggested. The impact of this name change will be minimal, as there are only eight to ten properties along this small gravel portion of road. This is shown on the location map in *Attachment 3*.

4.3 Naming Process for a Regional Road

To provide route continuity, it is proposed that one name be adopted for the roadway. The *Municipal Act* requires that before any road is renamed, notice of the proposed by-law shall be given to the public. The legislation does not prescribe the form of notice, but enables municipalities to determine the manner and timing as appropriate. It is recommended that the following notice procedure apply:

- Advertisement in local paper on two occasions
- Letter addressed to each affected property owner
- Signage

It is recommended that staff be directed to arrange for the advertising and public hearing in accordance with these legislative requirements.

It is also recommended that the public be given the opportunity to address the Transportation and Works Committee on a date to be specified in the notice.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report involve compensation by York Region, for reasonable expenses, for address changes resulting from the changing of street names. Also, the cost of any subsequent roadway name signing. These costs are estimated at \$3,500 and are covered within the 2006 Transportation Operations budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of East Gwillimbury has requested the Region to consider the renaming of some sections of Yonge Street in East Gwillimbury to help avoid confusion when

dispatching emergency vehicles to addresses on Yonge Street. The Town submitted a proposal that is not acceptable to Region staff. Region staff made an alternate proposal that is acceptable to YRP, EMS, Fire, and Town staff. The Region staff proposal would have a minimal effect on the Town's residents in the area.

7. CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the road renaming as shown in *Attachment 3* be approved by Council and Regional staff be directed to advertise and hold a public hearing on this matter.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)