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NO PARKING ANYTIME ZONE YONGE STREET (BOND LAKE) TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

The Transportation Services Committee recommends adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated September 21, 2011, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services, with the following amendment:

- 4. The Region request the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to erect signs on its property indicating the three areas where parking is permitted.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A “No Parking Anytime” zone be implemented on both sides of Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) between 150 metres north of Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road, in the Town of Richmond Hill.
2. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary by-law.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill.

2. PURPOSE

This report recommends implementing a parking restriction on both sides of Yonge Street between Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road in the Town of Richmond Hill.

3. BACKGROUND

The Oak Ridges Corridor Park is 405 hectares of natural area located between Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue just north of Jefferson Side Road

Oak Ridges Corridor Park is envisioned to provide an extensive ecological link on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The five kilometre recreational trail goes from Bathurst Street past Yonge Street towards Moraine Park and passes by Philip’s Lake, Bond Lake and William

Bond Park. There are currently two designated parking areas located at Bathurst Glen Golf Course and near William Bond Park off Old Colony Road. Additional trail entrances are located on the east and west side of Yonge Street south of Old Colony Road (see *Attachment 1*).

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority and York Regional Police have requested York Region implement a “No Parking Anytime” zone on Yonge Street, in the Bond Lake area

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority and York Regional Police requested that Regional staff install a “No Parking Anytime” zone on both sides of Yonge Street between Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road, in the Bond Lake area. Motorists are parking in this location because of the convenience of access and proximity to Bond Lake. This parking restriction has been requested to prevent vehicles from parking on the shoulder of Yonge Street, which is in close proximity to vehicles travelling at high operating speeds, creating safety issues for pass-by traffic and pedestrians.

“No Parking Anytime” zones are often implemented on Regional roads in areas where parking of vehicles occurs on a regular and continuous basis. To address the traffic safety concerns in this area, it is proposed that a “No Parking Anytime” zone be implemented.

In accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, a Regional by-law is required before any traffic restriction can be signed and enforced on a Regional road.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Residents voice safety concerns regarding motorists parking on Yonge Street in the Bond Lake area

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority and York Regional Police have received numerous complaints regarding vehicles parked on the shoulder of Yonge Street between Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road, in the Bond Lake area. The parked vehicles are in close proximity to the travel lanes on Yonge Street, which create safety concerns for pass-by traffic and pedestrians.

Yonge Street, between Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road, is a five-lane rural arterial roadway with a posted speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour and three-metre wide shoulders. It is approximately 700 metres in length and carries 27,000 vehicles daily. There is a horizontal curve with one signalized intersection at the Oak Ridges Corridor Trail and no sidewalks on this section of Yonge Street.

A speed study was conducted on Thursday, June 30, 2011, during free flow conditions and the results indicate that the 85th percentile speed (the speed at or below which 85 percent of the vehicles are travelling) is approximately 85 kilometres per hour. The results of the speed study indicate that the operating speed on this section of Yonge Street has a higher compliance in comparison to other 80 kilometre per hour road sections in York Region.

In response to safety concerns, Regional Staff installed a “No Parking Anytime” zone on Yonge Street

In response to the request, Regional staff conducted several periodic site reviews in July 2011 and observed vehicles routinely parking on Yonge Street during all days of the week. Staff observed approximately six to twelve parked vehicles during each site review and a few pedestrians in the vicinity.

As a precaution, Regional staff installed “No Parking Anytime” zone on both sides of Yonge Street between Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive. The sign was installed as a deterrent for motorists in the beginning of August. The Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers were informed that the signs have no associated by-law and Regional Council endorsement. Therefore, the “No Parking Anytime” zone has not been enforced. Through additional site observations Regional staff identified that parking along Yonge Street has decreased since the installation of the “No Parking Anytime” signs.

The implementation of any parking restriction is intended to deter vehicles from parking on the shoulder of Yonge Street. In addition, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority initiated other deterrents for motorists parking on the shoulder of Yonge Street at this location. These deterrents include the installation of a fence to prevent motorists accessing the park from the shoulder of Yonge Street and “No Trespassing” signs. In addition, as of August 1, 2011 the Toronto Region Conservation Authority has hired a security company to prevent unauthorized use of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park.

Designated parking for the Oak Ridges Corridor Park is located on either end of the park trail

There is an existing parking lot located at the intersection of Yonge Street and Oak Ridges Moraine, which can accommodate approximately 25 vehicles. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority is in the process of permitting the general public to use this parking lot to access the Oak Ridges Corridor Park and road signs will also be installed to direct park visitors to the designated parking lots. Additional parking is available at Bathurst Glen Golf Course located on Bathurst Street north of Stouffville Road and William Bond Park located off Old Colony Road.

In October 2005, Regional Council approved the installation of a traffic signal, at the expense of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, on Yonge Street in the location

of the preferred crossing of the Oak Ridges Corridor Park portion of the Oak Ridges Trail which provides a safer means for motorists and pedestrians.

York Regional Police and Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers support the “No Parking Anytime” zone

Toronto Region Conservation Authority has notified York Regional Police numerous times of a problem associated with parked vehicles on Yonge Street in the area of Bond Lake. Currently, with no by-law in effect, York Regional Police and Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers have no authority to remove or ticket vehicles parking in this area. Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers and York Regional Police support the “No Parking Anytime” zone located on Yonge Street in the area of Bond Lake. The “No Parking Anytime” zone will be monitored by the Region with enforcement carried out by the local municipal by-law staff.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implication to the Region is limited to the cost of manufacturing and installing the “No Parking” signs, which is included in the 2011 Transportation Services Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Richmond Hill By-law Enforcement Officers will support the new “No Parking” by-law, in accordance with the agreement under the *Provincial Offences Act* for enforcement of Regional by-laws, with revenues to be retained by the Town of Richmond Hill.

7. CONCLUSION

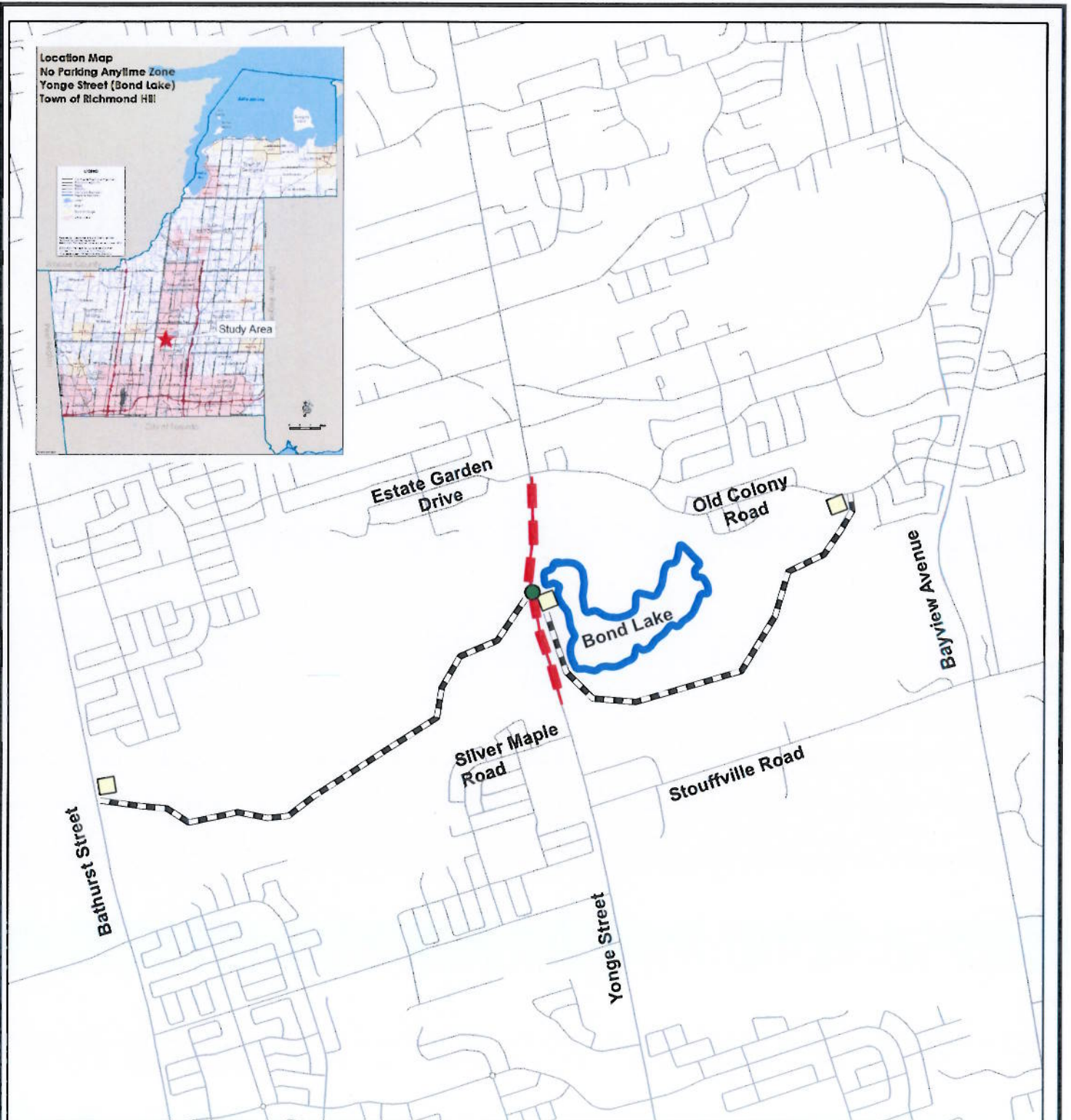
To address the on-going parking and safety concerns in the Bond Lake area it is recommended that the “No Parking Anytime” zone be implemented on both sides of Yonge Street between 150 metres north of Silver Maple Road and Estate Garden Drive / Old Colony Road. The Town of Richmond Hill by-law enforcement officers, in accordance with the Regional and Provincial Offences Agreements, will carry out enforcement of this Regional by-law.

The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill.

For more information on this report, please contact Steven Kemp, Director, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems at Ext. 5226.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)



LOCATION PLAN

No Parking Anytime Zone
Yonge Street (Bond Lake)
Town of Richmond Hill



- No Parking Anytime zone
- Oak Ridges Corridor Park Trail
- Parking Lot
- Traffic Signal

0 205 410 820 1,230 1,640 Meters