

Achievements to Date – Housing Supply Strategy

Affordable Homeownership	Two local municipalities, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, now allow the inclusion of second suites as a matter of right which could allow for greater affordability for homeowners.
Regional Direct Delivery	Completed the construction of a 58-unit senior's residence in Newmarket - Armitage Gardens. Provided rent supplement to 329 households at the end of 2003, an increase of 47 units during the year. Commenced development on a mixed-use seniors' project in partnership with the City of Vaughan.
Non-Profit and Rental Housing	Provided funding, including the off-set of Regional development charges, to the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity for various initiatives. Adopted a policy allowing non-profit groups building affordable rental housing to receive grants in the amount of Regional development charges paid. The Regional Official Plan was amended in 2003 to reflect the goals of the Housing Supply Strategy to promote an integrated community structure that ensures a broad mix and range of lot sizes, unit sizes, housing forms, types, and tenures. Council conditionally agreed to the Region's participation in the Community Rental Housing Program (CRHP) subject to negotiation of outstanding program administrative details and authorized up to \$7.5 million in payments from the Social Housing Reserve to match funding from the Federal government. The Province has announced it will be re-launching the Program later in 2004.

Non-Profit and Rental Housing continued	The property tax rate for multi-residential properties has been significantly reduced to now be at the same level as single family dwellings. Council has enacted a Municipal Housing Facilities By-law that allows the Region to provide incentives to the private sector to help create affordable housing. The Region participates on an Inter-Municipal Working Group on Affordable Housing which discusses developments in the sector, as well as best practices. A housing charette was held with Kehilla Residential Services, which identified three potential housing projects.
Education and Awareness	Forwarded the Regional Housing Supply Strategy to all area municipalities and presentations were made to 7 of 9 area municipal councils at their request. Widely distributed a publication called <i>Housing Matters</i>, which describes the progress being made by the Region in the area of affordable housing.

Advocate with Other Levels of Government	The Federal and Provincial government provided a substantial financial contribution to the construction of Armitage Gardens. The Regional Chair and senior staff met with the Federal Housing Minister in September 2003 to advocate for a continuing and enhanced role for the Federal government in the funding of affordable housing. The Region has strongly advocated for an increased senior government role through such organizations as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Ontario Region's Social Housing Group, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. The Region continues to advocate to the Province for further funding and administrative changes to the Community Rental Housing Program. (CRHP) Received conditional approval of up to \$1.62 million for a senior's project in Vaughan under the CRHP.
Homelessness/Homelessness Prevention Services	Supplied \$270,000 of funding to the Salvation Army in 2003 to administer a successful Homelessness Prevention Program. Cost shared about \$900,000 with the Province for a range of other homelessness initiatives including the Housing Help Centre in Aurora, a street van, and Pathways Home Base Youth Drop-in Centre. The Region was approved as the Community Entity to deliver funding of \$1.6 million under the first phase of the Supporting Communities Program Initiative. The Region will deliver further funding of \$1.6 million under the second phase of the program