



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Planning and Economic Development Committee

FROM: John B. Waller, Acting Commissioner
Planning and Development Services Department

DATE: September 7, 2011

RE: York Region Official Plan 2010 receives Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Awards of Excellence

I am pleased to inform you that York Region will be receiving two awards from the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) for the York Region Official Plan 2010. These awards are an opportunity for OPPI to acknowledge the best professional accomplishments of members.

The first award is the Award of Excellence for the York Region Official Plan 2010, in the Municipal Statutory Planning Studies, Reports and Documents category. This award recognizes the high calibre and excellence of the York Region Official Plan policies in guiding and directing municipal growth and development, and is the highest award given by OPPI.

York Region's Official Plan 2010 was also selected by the Excellence in Planning Award judges as the winner of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's special joint Healthy Communities Award.

The Regional Official Plan 2010 submission was recommended for this prestigious award because of the number of ways in which the York Region Official Plan creates and fosters a community that is healthier and more sustainable.

The OPPI award transmittal letter for this award states: "Your plan emphasizes the importance of sustainability, urban design, transit, active transportation, and green infrastructure in creating healthy communities."

Adopted by Regional Council in December 2009 and approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in September 2010, this Official Plan represents York Region's ongoing collaboration with its partners and stakeholders to rethink the way communities are designed, serviced and supported. Key elements of this Plan include:

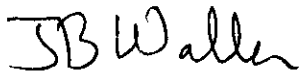
- City building in the Regional Centres and Corridors.

- Minimum 40% intensification in the built-up area.
- Higher standards for new communities.
- Well-designed and intensified commercial, industrial and institutional developments.
- Protection of strategic employment lands.
- Co-ordination with updated infrastructure master plans.
- Mobility systems that prioritize walking, cycling and transit use.
- Higher standards for green buildings and water efficiency.
- Context-sensitive design for infrastructure projects.
- Linked and enhanced Regional Greenlands System.
- Minimum 25% affordable new housing units.
- Full-cost accounting approach to financial management.
- Protection of the rural and agricultural countryside.

The policies of the Official Plan will guide economic, environmental and community building decisions to manage growth. A series of regional strategies, plans and guidelines will support and implement the policies in this Plan. In addition, the policies in this Plan will help co-ordinate and set the stage for more detailed planning by local municipalities. This Plan will also provide a framework for coordinated planning with adjacent municipalities, as well as with other jurisdictions.

The Regional Official Plan was developed entirely in-house through extensive consultation with York Region's residents, partners and stakeholders.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute will present the awards to York Region at its annual conference in Ottawa in October, 2011



John B. Waller, Acting Commissioner
Planning and Development Services Department

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