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For more York Region information or to comment on York Works:

Email: [yorkworks@york.ca](mailto:yorkworks@york.ca)

Visit: [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

Call: 1-877-464-9675



York Region



@YorkRegionGovt

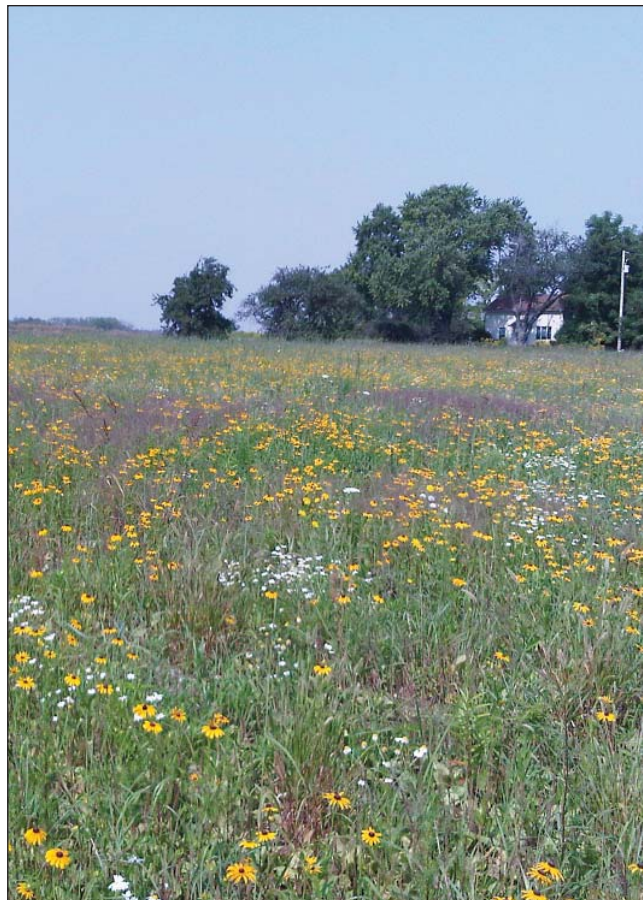
## Giving Rouge Park a \$6 million boost

York Region has been a long-time supporter of Rouge Park, a natural environmental refuge. Rouge Park covers 47 square kilometres (4,700 hectares) stretching from Lake Ontario to the Towns of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As part of our capital plan, York Region is investing more than \$6 million in Rouge Park through the creation of recreational trails, the improvement of aquatic ecosystems and reforestation efforts.

One project already underway is the creation of a meadow in a section of the 200-hectare Bob Hunter Memorial Park formerly used for farming.

Scheduled to open in 2015, the park will feature hiking and biking trails, a nature trail, restored wetland and re-planted



Bob Hunter Memorial Park in Rouge Park

native woodland. This spring, 25 hectares of forest were planted and a 12-hectare native grass meadow has just been approved.

The Summer 2011 edition of York Works provides an update on a number of different initiatives the Region is undertaking, including rapid transit and trunk sewer construction, a new speed limit policy, managing invasive pests and investments in our forests.

Sustainability is a focus of York Region's community development, reflected in our commitment to efficient transit,

clean water, waste management policies and environmental protection.

If you have questions about these topics or other programs or services offered by York Region, please contact us at [yorkworks@york.ca](mailto:yorkworks@york.ca) or call **1-877-464-9675 ext. 1234**.



# WATER

## Smart watering ... all summer long

April showers brought more May showers but weather forecasts predict we are in for a hot, dry summer.

Hot weather can double the amount of outdoor water use, putting a strain on reservoirs. To temper this increased demand, York Region's local municipalities have outdoor water use bylaws stipulating even-numbered houses may water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered houses may water on odd-numbered days.

Water conservation is crucial to ensure a sufficient supply of water for regular use and emergency services, such as fire fighting.

For water conservation tips and information on your local municipality's water use bylaws, please visit [www.waterfortomorrow.ca](http://www.waterfortomorrow.ca)

## King City water supply upgrade



York Region is augmenting the groundwater-based supply of drinking water to the community of King City with lake-based water from the York Water System (YWS).

Fluoride is being added to the water and the disinfection process will be changed to chloramination, which uses small amounts of ammonia

with chlorine. Both fluoride and chloramination are already used in areas of the Region supplied by Lake Ontario water.

As with chlorinated water, kidney dialysis patients and owners of fish, reptiles and amphibians must take care with chloraminated water. Please contact your physician or pet store for more information.

For more information about the King City water supply, please visit [www.york.ca/services/water](http://www.york.ca/services/water)

## Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer



Following intensive planning, design and Ministry of Environment approval, the Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer project is ready to begin construction.

The 15-kilometre route will be constructed using four Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs), working as deep as 40 metres below the surface. When all four TBMs are operating, approximately 60 metres of tunnelling can be completed in one day.

Completion of the new Southeast Collector supports provincially-mandated growth in York Region, as well as permit inspection and rehabilitation of the existing 40-year-old pipe and provide critical backup.

## York Region water quality ... leading the way!

The Ministry of the Environment Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Report has been released and The Regional Municipality of York continues to lead GTA municipalities in meeting provincial water quality standards.

During the 2009-2010 reporting year, 10,465 treated water tests were conducted at York Region water facilities throughout our nine municipalities, resulting in an overall score of 99.99 per cent compliance.



## Creating an integrated waste management plan

Together with our local municipal partners, York Region is developing a SM4RT LIVING plan to help guide waste management in York Region for the next 25 years. This plan will focus on changing behaviours to reduce waste, maximize recycling and composting and recover energy from waste.

SM4RT LIVING allows residents to be better informed and aware of the amount of waste we generate, and how we manage our waste materials. It will highlight the need for lifestyle changes in the way we buy materials and generate waste, ultimately helping us make more informed decisions and move towards sustainable living.

There are a number of ways to get involved in this project. Visit our booth at community events over the summer, participate on the Public Advisory Committee or submit ideas through our website.

Please contact us at [SM4RTLIVING@york.ca](mailto:SM4RTLIVING@york.ca) or **1-877-267-7794 ext. 223**. For more information, please visit [www.SM4RTLIVING.com](http://www.SM4RTLIVING.com)

## Bin-dicator



Green Bin? Blue Box? Garbage Can? Household Hazardous Waste? This is a job for Bin-dicator!

If you have packaging or other types of waste and unsure how to

dispose of it, visit [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste) and click on the Bin-dicator picture. Just enter the name of your puzzling material and Bin-dicator will tell you how to dispose of it properly and safely.

## Make the switch to certified compostable bags



In an effort to keep plastic bags out of landfill, York Region has made the switch to certified compostable

bags for the Green Bin program. This will help ensure a more sustainable, environmentally-friendly future.

Plastic bags do not decompose into organic composted material. When used as bin liners in the Green Bin, they are removed from the compost and sent to landfill for disposal. Bags labelled as biodegradable are not compostable. They break down into smaller particles, contaminating the final composted material with bits of plastic.

Although your Green Bin waste will not be left at the curb, we're asking you to make the switch to certified compostable bags.

Certified compostable bags are easy to find at major retail stores across York Region and a month's supply of kitchen-catcher size bags costs about \$3.





# TRANSIT

## VivaNext Rapidway Construction – building in stages

VivaNext, York Region's plan for the next generation of rapid transit, is widening roads to build rapidways (dedicated lanes) for Viva vehicles in the centre of York Region's busiest corridors.

As vivaNext widens Highway 7 East in the Town of Markham and Town of Richmond Hill, and prepares to widen Davis Drive in the Town of Newmarket, the Region is committed to minimizing disruption for people who live, work and commute along these roads.

Construction will be kept off the road as much as possible. Temporary lane closures will occur during off-peak hours and work completed as quickly as possible.

Over the next three years, vivaNext construction on Davis Drive and Highway 7 East will be completed in these stages:

- 1) Building retaining walls, widening bridges, installing temporary traffic signals and removing medians
- 2) Widening one side of the road
- 3) Widening the other side of the road
- 4) Shifting traffic apart and building centre rapidway lanes
- 5) Building new vivastations along the rapidways
- 6) Paving and permanent road markings

Visit [www.vivanext.com](http://www.vivanext.com) to sign up for construction updates and for information about the vivaNext projects. Follow the construction updates on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vivaNext](https://www.twitter.com/vivaNext)



## Warden Station - York Region's first rapid transit station



York Region's first rapid transit station opened in March. Warden Station is the first of 71 vivastations to be built along the vivaNext rapidways in the Towns of Newmarket, Markham and Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan.

Located near the intersection of Enterprise Boulevard and Warden Avenue in Markham, the new vivastation is designed and engineered for comfort, safety, accessibility and convenience.

The new 27-metre-long canopy offers riders shelter from the elements plus an enclosed waiting area with motion-activated heaters. Other design features include near-level boarding from the platform onto the bus and a public address system.

## Spadina Subway extension

The 8.6-kilometre extension from Downsview Station in the City of Toronto to Highway 7 in the City of Vaughan will include six stations along its route.

Three stations will be located in York Region:

- Steeles West Station
- Highway 407 Station
- Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Station

Tunnel boring has begun and the entire subway extension project is scheduled to be complete and in service by late 2015.

For more information about the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension project, visit [www.spadina.ttc.ca](http://www.spadina.ttc.ca)



## Transit terminal improvements

The Richmond Hill Centre Terminal has undergone a series of improvements that include:

- Fully enclosing and heating part of the passenger waiting area
- Installing more illuminated terminal platform signs that provide route and next bus arrival information
- Crosswalks from the Richmond Hill Centre Terminal platform to the north parking lot
- Fencing and directional signage to increase safety and assist with passenger movement
- Extending platforms 1 and 2 to accommodate Viva purple vehicles



Additional improvements to the terminal feature new public washrooms with hands-free and environmentally-friendly facilities. The washrooms are scheduled for completion in 2013.

## Transit ridership

Ridership on YRT/Viva is up!

Total revenue ridership from January to May has increased 10.5 per cent. If this trend continues, YRT/Viva will surpass 21 million riders in 2011, marking an all-time ridership record.

YRT/Viva continually monitors and evaluates service to better meet the needs of riders. We are committed to providing an efficient service that is safe, reliable and convenient.

## Graffiti removal



York Region conducts weekly inspections of terminals and vivastations to say goodbye to graffiti. In 2010, more than 800 instances of vandalism by graffiti occurred, forcing clean-up and removal.

Recurring graffiti and vandalism incidents are investigated by Transit Enforcement and Security in an effort to prevent and eliminate further instances.



# GREENING

## Emerald Ash Borer



In 2008, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) identified the Emerald Ash Borer in York Region, an invasive insect that destroys healthy ash trees.

York Region continues to work with CFIA, Canadian Forest Service, the Ministry of Natural Resources,

conservation authorities and local municipalities to slow the advance of the beetle.

The Emerald Ash Borer is generally spread through the movement of infested firewood, nursery stock and forest products, prompting CFIA to place restrictions on the movement of this material. To determine the extent of the infestation, York Region has placed green prism-style survey traps in the following areas:

- Northern portions of the City of Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill and Town of Markham
- Southern portions of the Township of King and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Towns of Aurora and Newmarket



Signs are in place to advise residents of traps placed in their community.

To learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer and wood movement restrictions, please visit the CFIA website at [www.inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/pests) or call **1-866-463-6017**.

For local information, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) and click on the Emerald Ash Borer banner on our front page.

## New online registration system for forestry programs and events

Educators and residents can take advantage of a new online system to register for York Region's Nature's Classroom and Adopt-a-Stream educational programs.

Nature's Classroom promotes understanding of the natural environment with guided tours of the York Regional Forest. Adopt-a-Stream encourages environmental stewardship through tree planting near streams each spring and fall.

To register online, please click on the front page link at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

Those taking part in the free monthly Take a Walk in the Forest guided tours are also encouraged to register online for events. Pre-registration allows staff a better idea of the number of participants and plan accordingly.

Upcoming forest walks:

**August 20:** Butterflies and Forest Friends

**September 24:** "Nature's Creations" Forest Festival

**October 15:** Forest, Fish and Fungi

## Helping street trees

York Region has approved new standards for tree-planting soil and increased watering to help ensure the health of 32,000 trees along boulevards in urban areas.

New street tree plantings feature soil trenches that provide a three-metre wide growing space of soil to help roots become established. All street trees will receive 14 waterings each year to provide a more consistent supply of water.

York Region has made street tree health a priority in a challenging urban environment.



## Celebrating Public Works

In celebration of National Public Works Week, York Region hosted 600 people at the Bales Drive Operations Centre in the Town of East Gwillimbury on May 14 for a Family Fun Day.



The event featured trucks and construction equipment, a fully-functional crosswalk, bus tours and forestry, water and solid waste displays. A charity barbecue also raised \$750 for the York Region Food Network.

The Family Fun Day launched a week of activities that included school tours of water, wastewater and waste management facilities, the annual Miller Cup construction challenge for municipal staff and politicians and a number of contests and draws.



Congratulations to Daniel Robitaille of Newmarket, who won the draw for a new bicycle through the Region's promotion of a new cycling map and website:

[www.york.ca/cycling](http://www.york.ca/cycling)



Congratulations to Prince Charles Public School for their winning paint-a-plow entry and to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School, St. Anne Catholic Elementary School and Harry Bowes Public School, the top three winners in the poster contest.

## New speed limit policy

In April, York Regional Council approved a new speed limit policy for Regional roads. The policy reflects the changing nature of our communities and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

The new policy recommends:

- 60 km/h – Urban areas, towns, villages and hamlets
- 70 km/h – Roads on urban/rural borders
- 80 km/h – Rural areas

The changes help keep speeds more consistent for drivers, while slowing traffic in growing urban areas.

Changes to speed limits are reviewed by staff from York Region Transportation Services and presented to York Regional Council for approval. Any speed limit changes under consideration will be grouped together and forwarded to York Regional Council twice a year.





Mayor  
Frank Scarpitti  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Jack Heath  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Jim Jones  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Gordon Landon  
Markham



Regional Councillor  
Joe Li  
Markham



Mayor  
David Barrow  
Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor  
Vito Spatafora  
Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor  
Brenda Hogg  
Richmond Hill



Mayor  
Maurizio Bevilacqua  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Gino Rosati  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Michael Di Biase  
Vaughan



Regional Councillor  
Deb Schulte  
Vaughan



Mayor  
Robert Grossi  
Georgina



Regional Councillor  
Danny Wheeler  
Georgina



Mayor  
Geoffrey Dawe  
Aurora



Mayor  
Virginia Hackson  
East Gwillimbury



Mayor  
Steve Pellegrini  
King



Mayor  
Wayne Emmerson  
Whitchurch-Stouffville

## York Regional Council Contact Information

Town of Aurora  
905-727-1375 • [aurora.ca](http://aurora.ca)

Town of East Gwillimbury  
905-478-4282 • [eastgwillimbury.ca](http://eastgwillimbury.ca)

Town of Georgina  
905-476-4301 • [georgina.ca](http://georgina.ca)

Township of King  
905-833-5321 • [king.ca](http://king.ca)

Town of Markham  
905-477-7000 • [markham.ca](http://markham.ca)



York Region  
Chairman & CEO  
Bill Fisch

Town of Newmarket  
905-895-5193 • [newmarket.ca](http://newmarket.ca)

Town of Richmond Hill  
905-771-8800 • [richmondhill.ca](http://richmondhill.ca)

City of Vaughan  
905-832-2281 • [vaughan.ca](http://vaughan.ca)

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
905-640-1900 • [townofws.ca](http://townofws.ca)

The Regional Municipality of York  
1-877-464-9675 • [york.ca](http://york.ca)



Mayor  
Tony Van Bynen  
Newmarket



Regional Councillor  
John Taylor  
Newmarket

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**September 14**  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

#### How To Build a Successful Art Business

Speaker: Andrew Patricio,  
Bizlaunch

York Region Administrative  
Centre, Newmarket

To register  
905-830-4444 ext. 1572  
[ysbec@york.ca](mailto:ysbec@york.ca)

**October 19**  
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Intellectual Property and How to Protect Your Art

Canadian Intellectual  
Property Office  
Pierre Burton Library  
Woodbridge

To register  
905-832-8526  
[vbec@vaughan.ca](mailto:vbec@vaughan.ca)

**October 27**  
6 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Develop a Marketing Strategy - Maximize Social Media

Speaker: Bhupesh Shah,  
ethnicomm inc.

Richmond Hill Municipal Offices

To register  
905-771-2523  
[ecdev@richmondhill.ca](mailto:ecdev@richmondhill.ca)

