

## Dates to Remember:



### *Richmond Hill's Annual Seniors' Fair*

Wednesday June 19, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At the

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

*See you there!*



### International Women's Day

**Friday, March 8, 2013**

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. It is a time for reflection and celebration. It is a time to recognize the contributions of women to our social, economic, political, and physical environment. Females represent about half of the global population and yet are underrepresented in political decision-making and local economics. Most do not own property; have limited educations; limited access to health services; and few career choices or opportunities to fully contribute to society and their own individual experience. Our lives are shaped and guided in many ways by our gender and our cultural expectations. It was my Grandmother's generation who fought for and attained the privilege to vote; to participate in the decisions which guided their country and community. It was my Mother's generation which won the right to leave a bad marriage and make a new life. It was my generation that sought out higher education and fought for jobs with equal pay and equal opportunity. Although there is much more to do, we have come a long way. Let's celebrate!



**225 East Beaver Creek Road**

**905-771-8800**

[access@richmondhill.ca](mailto:access@richmondhill.ca)

The Town's one-window contact centre, *Access Richmond Hill*, responds to general inquiries and accepts payments, all at one location.

**Translation Required?**

**Our translation service is available in more than 170 languages.**

**Hours of Operation:**

**Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

*Thank you for reading my newsletter. If you have any comments or questions... please call 905-771-2498 or email: [bhogg@richmondhill.ca](mailto:bhogg@richmondhill.ca)*

*Brenda*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



### **Regional and Local Councillor Brenda HOGG**

*Let's get this party started...  
Throughout 2013*



### ***Richmond Hill celebrates its 140th Anniversary!***

To begin the festivities, we invite you to share your most memorable Richmond Hill moments. Please submit your photographs and memories about Richmond Hill to [rhanniversary@richmondhill.ca](mailto:rhanniversary@richmondhill.ca)

We anticipate a year of celebration beginning with a 140<sup>th</sup> Richmond Hill exhibit at the Heritage Centre (Church St. just north of Centre St. East). Starting in February, the exhibit will take you on a trip of Richmond Hill in years past. As a resident for the past 49 years, I've certainly seen a lot of changes. Stay tuned for more festivities and as always, more changes...

### **\$\$\$ Town Budget \$\$\$**

As Chair of the Town's Budget Committee, I work closely with the Mayor, members of council, our professional town staff and the community to deliver a budget in the spring which addresses our changing needs, maintains our existing service levels, and minimizes any tax rate impact.

#### **These are the financial principles which we follow:**

1. Thorough short and long term planning so that we maintain financial stability.
2. Prudent consideration of reserves so we are always prepared for that "rainy day."
3. Leverage available funding sources so we minimize any tax rate impact. We actively seek out funding Opportunities and partnerships with other orders of government and the private sector.
4. Maintain the Town's Debt Free Status. With a history of prudent planning and careful investment, Richmond Hill is proud to be debt free.

**In December, Town Council approved an investment of \$44.6 million in construction projects and upgrades to our service commitments. We also approved our 10 year Capital forecast which outlines the major initiatives and direction of investments for the next decade.**

I invite you to participate in our budget process through several avenues. You may email [budget@richmondhill.ca](mailto:budget@richmondhill.ca) or write to: **Attention: Town Clerk, Town of Richmond Hill, 225 East Beaver Creek Road, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3P4.**

Budget Committee of the Whole meetings are open to the public, call 905-771-2498 for details, or you may attend our **Public Information event at Hillcrest Mall on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 4 p.m.**

## **WATCHING ... For a TRANSIT \$\$\$\$ Announcement???**

**The biggest concern for residents as we continue to grow is traffic congestion.** Both Richmond Hill and York Region have been doing their part to improve the traffic situation. Our Official Plans direct intensified residential and commercial developments to the rapid transit corridors (along Yonge St. and Hwy. 7) and to our Regional transit hub at Yonge St. and Hwy. 7. The 'Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway' which includes the transit hub is expected to accommodate approximately 48,000 new residents and 31,000 jobs when fully built out. With intensified development, people will be able to readily access the bus lines, GO train, or subway. We need transit located near riders to help carry the costs.

### **Improvements continue for our GO train service:**

- ◆ Expanded parking at the GO Station on Newkirk Rd has added 450 spaces to the station.
- ◆ A new GO station in Gormley, near Stouffville Road & Hwy 404, is moving forward with full funding approval. GO service is anticipated by 2014.
- ◆ Construction is underway on a new train layover facility just north of Gormley station site at Bethesda Rd. This will allow trains to stay in Richmond Hill overnight; improving efficiency and enabling improved service and,
  - ◆ GO Transit awaits funding for a 2nd GO station at Hwy 404 & Bloomington Rd.



**VivaNext progresses:** We are beginning our vivaNext bus rapid transit system build out along Yonge St. this year. The projected completion date for the first segment from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive is 2015. The Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce [info@rhcoc.com](mailto:info@rhcoc.com) will continue to assist the affected businesses throughout the construction phase.

Richmond Hill has worked hard to promote alternatives to single-occupancy automobile travel through our partnership with **Smart Commute** at [www.smartcommute.ca](http://www.smartcommute.ca) and we continue to work with Metrolinx [www.metrolinx.com](http://www.metrolinx.com) to support seamless transit across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

As the Region's representative to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), I helped lobby the Federal government for long-term infrastructure funding specifically for the **Yonge St. subway**. Recently we were very pleased to hear the Province's Metrolinx announce that 'The Big Move' projects in the next wave include two new subway lines: a Downtown Relief line improving access to the regional core for residents from across the GTHA, as well as a new extension of the Yonge subway line north to Richmond Hill.

### **But who will fund the \$3.1 Billion Yonge Subway extension?**

We are a rapidly growing Region with infrastructure needs which far exceed the limits of the local taxpayer's ability to pay. As a Director of the FCM, I have spoken with our Members of Parliament, Costas Menegakis and Paul Calandra. They understand our transit needs and will take our concerns to Federal Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, and the Prime Minister. At the provincial level, legislation requires Metrolinx to submit their \$34 Billion funding strategy for 'The Big Move', Regional Transportation Plan on or before June 2013. Between all orders of government, pressures from the public, and interests from the business sector, **I anticipate a specific and significant financial commitment to the building of the Yonge Street subway extension within the next six months. If you share that vision, you may want to attend the Federal Pre-Budget discussion on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Centre for the Performing Arts (Yonge St. and Wright St. just south of Crosby Ave.) from 7 - 9 p.m. You may also contact your Provincial Representatives: Dr. Helena Jaczek [www.helenajaczek.onmpp.ca](http://www.helenajaczek.onmpp.ca) and Dr. Reza Moridi [www.rezamoridi.onmpp.ca](http://www.rezamoridi.onmpp.ca) to share your transit and traffic concerns.**

## **Some Things to talk about.....**



**Funding for our hospital?** Mackenzie Health Richmond Hill, formerly York Central Hospital has made a presentation to the Town's Budget Committee with a request for funding. They are asking for an investment of \$1.5 million per year for the next 10 years to support priority equipment needs for the hospital. Although the Town is not obligated to fund the hospital, we did donate \$10 million in 2003 toward the construction of a new wing following the sale of Richmond Hill Hydro. The funds came from the 'Community Enhancement and Economic Vitality Reserve Fund' which was created to enhance the quality of life and enrich the economic vitality of the community.

Although the Province is expected to fund healthcare, they only fund 90% of construction and do not fund medical technology or equipment costs. Those costs are left to the local community to raise. The trouble is that technology is changing and becoming an expensive necessity in our healthcare system. Donations from our community are not sufficient.

Council has asked that the request be put out to the public for consideration. If you would like to comment, please call 905-771-2498 or email: [bhogg@richmondhill.ca](mailto:bhogg@richmondhill.ca)

Residents of Richmond Hill are asked to include their municipal address when sending an email. Thank you!

**The 'Community Hub'** A development proposal by the Regional Municipality of York is for a 'Community Hub' on Yonge Street just north of Crosby Ave.

The original 10 storey proposal with 225 unit residential units has been revised. The new proposal is seeking approval for a 9 storey building with 202 units. Most units propose to accommodate single persons of all ages with low to moderate incomes. If approved, it will be owned and operated by the Region of York and will include a youth centre with emergency housing. York Region and the Town have long recognized the growing needs of our low-income workers, seniors, persons with disabilities, and youth who are vulnerable to homelessness. Social and economic challenges exist and need to be addressed as we develop into the vibrant, inclusive City/Town of Richmond Hill.

### **Development of Yonge Street ...**

To date the Town has received approximately 20 development applications for the Yonge Street transit corridor. If approved, they will add approximately 5,000 new residential units to our community. These proposals are expected to conform to our new Official Plan and the designated areas for high, medium, and low density development.

The highest planned densities and building heights in the Town are expected to support the Regional transit hub at Hwy 7 and Yonge St. Unfortunately, the development of our Regional transit hub is not moving forward as quickly as some of our other development proposals and so, as an example, we have a development application at the S/W corner of Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive which exceeds all expectations of the Official Plan. This development proposal is also adjacent to the location of our proposed Civic Centre and the long anticipated new 'Town/City Hall'.

The application from BAIF developments proposes townhouses, ground floor commercial, and 3 residential towers with maximum heights of 20, 28 and 31 storeys and 3 additional towers with a maximum height of 10 storeys with a total of 1,560 residential units. This development proposal rivals the development planned for at our Regional transit hub (Yonge and Hwy 7). It attempts to concentrate development in an area which has not been designated as a 'Regional Centre' or even a 'Key Development Area' in the new Official Plan. This block of Town is designated as a 'Downtown Local Centre' with intensification at a scale and intensity that is compatible with the adjacent neighbourhoods. Council refused their proposal. We await the ruling by the OMB.

