

David Dunlap Observatory Lands ... (16th Ave and Hillview Dr.)



The David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) property is a 72 hectare (180 acre) site which has had a history of legal challenges. In 2013, the OMB ruled that over 56% of the property will be dedicated to public ownership and that there will be protection and enhancement of the DDO's natural and cultural attributes. To that end, Richmond Hill will continue to work with all community partners on our Master Plan vision to create our DDO Park.

For more information about the DDO, visit RichmondHill.ca/DDO or the DDO History and FAQ page.

WHAT'S UP in R HILL?

February is Carnival Time in Richmond Hill!

February 6, 7, and 8th at the Mill Pond (Mill St. and Trench St.)

Do you love to compete? Then Richmond Hill's Winter Carnival is the place to be. There will be a wing-eating contest, a battle of the amateur bands and a photography contest. To sign up, go to wintercarnival.net or call the Hotline 905.884.8887.



THE RICHMOND HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Business Awards night

Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

For ticket information or sponsorship: RHCOOC.com

Mark your calendar for the 9th Annual Health Seniors' Fair and Social

Friday, May 29th

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

10 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

See you there!



*Thank you for reading my newsletter.
If you have any comments or questions...*

*Please call 905-771-2498 or email brenda.hogg@richmondhill.ca
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Newsletter 2015

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Regional and Local Councillor

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Happy New Year 2015!



Election 2014 – A Snapshot

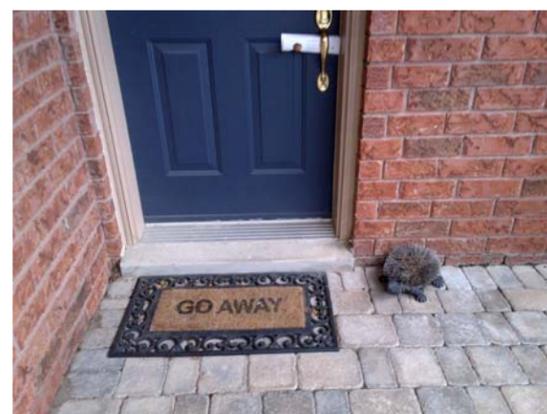
Congratulations to the new Chair of York Region: Wayne Emmerson. Chair Emmerson will lead a Council of 20 elected officials representing 1.2 million people across nine municipalities from the border of Toronto to Lake Simcoe while managing a \$3 Billion budget. This is a very big job and will be guided and supported by the elected representatives and our qualified staff. I expect that by 2018 this job will no longer be appointed by the Regional Council members but rather by direct election. I also expect that more media attention will be brought to all Regions across Greater Toronto. Stay tuned!

We will begin our new Council with education sessions at the local and regional level – a refresher for most on Council - but it is important to remember that when we work as partners with our experienced administration, we offer better service to the public.

Accessible and Accountable

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are now available online. Check it out at RichmondHill.ca/Meetings.

Some of your Priorities or... What I heard at the door



Over the election period, I delivered a lot of campaign material. As you can see by this photo, some of the residents shared their views even before they opened the door LOL.

Many more residents however expressed interest in building our public transit system, protecting our environment, saving our parkland, creating opportunities for building affordable housing, protecting our postal service, supporting our hospital and our local businesses to encourage our local economy. And yes, we need to use and invest our tax dollars wisely. There's only one taxpayer and life isn't cheap.

\$\$\$ TOWN BUDGET \$\$\$

As Chair of the Town's Budget Committee, I work closely with the Mayor, members of Council, our professional administration, and the community to address our changing economic and service requirements.

These are the financial principles which Council follows:

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.
4. Maintain the Town's Debt Free Status.

On December 15th, Council approved the \$44.5 million 2015 Capital Budget which included these major investments:

Oak Ridges Library - \$8.7 million
Road Reconstruction - \$5.8 million
Trail & Park building - \$2.9 million
Urban Forest Management and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Projects - \$1.9 million
Energy-efficient Lighting - \$1.2 million

We are now working on the Town's Operating Budget. Budget meetings are open to the public and I invite you to participate in our budget process. Email us at budget@richmondhill.ca

EMERGENCY EVENTS AND PREPARATION

Last year at this time, we were just coming out of the worst ice storm to ever hit Richmond Hill. Many residents and businesses were without heat and hydro for days. It was a sudden and massive challenge but our municipal workers helped us to meet our immediate needs and learn from the experience.

In December, Town staff submitted an extensive claim to the Province. The submission is 97 pages and the supporting documents total 2700 pages. The total ice storm recovery cost to Richmond Hill is estimated to be \$7 million.

Should we face another emergency, are you prepared with your 72 hour emergency kit? If not, go to RichmondHill.ca and type in "Emergency Kits" for recommendations.



CANADA POST DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY SERVICE

In June of 2014, at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; Annual General Meeting, FCM failed to pass a resolution to stop Canada Post from ending door-to-door delivery. Unfortunately, those who receive such service appear to be in the minority and so, the resolution failed. Even so, Richmond Hill Council has requested that Town Hall meetings be hosted by the local Members of Parliament along with Canada Post representatives to outline Canada Post's plans and explain how this will benefit our community. Council is concerned that the planned transition to community mailboxes in Wards 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be especially hard on seniors and people living with mobility and health challenges. It may also have an adverse economic impact on the community. Meeting dates to be announced soon...



Affordable Housing and our 'Community Hub' (Yonge and Crosby Ave.) is well underway.

A new addition to the Region of York's affordable housing buildings, the 'Community Hub' in Richmond Hill will be nine storeys with 202 one and two-bedroom apartments for seniors, singles and small families with a mix of incomes. The community Hub will also offer services for youth in southern York which will be managed by Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region.

Some of the Building Features:

- ⇒ On-site underground and surface parking
- ⇒ Indoor and outdoor amenity spaces
- ⇒ Green/energy efficient building systems
- ⇒ Rooftop garden
- ⇒ Street front commercial/social enterprise space

Expected date for opening is late in 2016.



TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

Yonge Street Rapidway and the Richmond Hill GO Station



VivaNext Bus Rapid Transit is now moving up Yonge Street. The Rapid Transit system along Hwy 7 East from Bayview to Hwy 404 has been in service since August 2014. We can expect the Yonge St. Rapidway from Hwy 7 to 19th Ave. to be completed by the end of 2018. To date, approximately \$3.1 Billion has been committed to the VivaNext Project by all orders of government.

MPP Reza Moridi and Council members celebrated the beginning of improvements to the Richmond Hill GO Station in October. Work has begun on a pedestrian bridge over Major Mackenzie Dr. to access a newly extended train platform. More trains and better access is a welcome addition to our transit improvements. For more information visit gotransit.com/ProgressRichmondHill.

SUPPORTING OUR HOSPITAL

Mackenzie Health's team regularly reaches out to a variety of community groups including seniors' clubs, religious organizations, cultural groups or service clubs to engage and consult on the planning of healthcare services for our community.



If your group of 20 people or more is interested, please call 905.883.1212 ext.7282 or you may email publicaffairs@mackenziehealth.ca

Looking to volunteer or donate? Go to: mackenziehealth.ca