

## RICHMOND HILL PLANS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Through studies and initiatives, Richmond Hill actively engages in building a sustainable natural environment. Richmond Hill rehabilitates stormwater management ponds and undertakes restoration of valleyland corridors to ensure that surrounding areas are protected from flooding and erosion. We create programs for urban forest management, community stewardship and backyard tree plantings to increase the Town's urban forest canopy, improve habitat, and provide healthy, sustainable environments.

## INTO EVERY LIFE, THERE WILL BE ROAD RE-CONSTRUCTION

Currently an environmental assessment of Bayview Avenue between Steeles and Elgin Mills Road is underway to review opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists, public transit users and motorists. York Region is now engaged in the building of several projects on Bayview Avenue starting at Elgin Mills Road and moving north to Stouffville Road. These two projects will increase Bayview Avenue from 2 - 4 lanes. In 2019, the Region will begin Bathurst Street road widening from 4 - 6 lanes including Transit-HOV lanes. Currently there are approximately 20 road reconstruction projects working through approvals for Richmond Hill alone.

York Region and Richmond Hill continue to build our rapid transit on Yonge Street. It takes time.... Once completed, the rapidway will extend 6.5 km from Highway 7 to 19th Avenue/Gamble Road. In the Heritage Village, north of Major Mackenzie Drive, Viva will continue to drive in mixed traffic as it does today. Preliminary work has already begun, with expected completion by the end of December 2018. Any questions? [vivanext.com](http://vivanext.com)

Stuck in traffic? Smart Commute Markham, Richmond Hill's network consists of 58 workplaces throughout Markham and Richmond Hill. They work with a Smart Commute Ambassador to create customized commuter choices like carpooling, cycling, transit, telework and flexible work arrangements. Please contact [info@smartcommutemrh.ca](mailto:info@smartcommutemrh.ca) or call 289-844-3026 to become a Smart Commute workplace. We'll help get you where you're going.

Thank you for reading my newsletter! *Brenda*

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**Regional and Local Councillor  
Brenda HOGG**

## WELCOME 2016 !

Two years ago, the ice storm hit the Greater Toronto Area. This Christmas, the temperatures were balmy enough that neighbours were playing ball with their dogs on the street! These weather events remind us to be prepared. Our Emergency Services recommend that you have '7 Ways to 7 Days'. Here's what you need to survive: Water, 4 litres per person, per day. Some people like to keep litres of water in the bottom of their freezer so food won't spoil should the power be shut off. Food: canned goods, energy bars and dried fruits are recommended. A wind-up radio and flashlights are essential (keep batteries handy). First Aid Kit – Make your own or buy one. Special items include prescription medications, infant formula, pet food, and equipment for people with disabilities. Other essential items include, cash in smaller bills, candles and matches. Don't forget to speak to your family about your Emergency Plan. Prepare a plan with out-of-area contact information and a family reunification plan. Make sure that your emergency kit is readily accessible and keep it up-to-date.

## \$\$\$ 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, prepares for our future and minimizes any tax rate impact.



### TRY THE CITIZEN BUDGET – A NEW INTERACTIVE TOOL

We've introduced an interactive **Citizen Budget tool** at [richmondhill.ca](http://richmondhill.ca). Show us how YOU would prioritize services and spending in 2016. It takes ten minutes with an easy-to-understand budget simulator. All Citizen Budget responses received by February 12, 2016 will be tabulated and shared with Council.

You may email: [budget@richmondhill.ca](mailto:budget@richmondhill.ca) or drop by a Public Information Session:

- + **Business Owners:** Tuesday, January 19 at the Main Municipal building (Leslie and Hwy. 7) 7:30 to 9 a.m. (breakfast meeting)
- + **Residents:** Saturday, January 23 at Hillcrest Mall, 10 to 2 p.m.

Budget Committee of the Whole meetings are open to the public – or you may watch them online at: [richmondhill.ca](http://richmondhill.ca)

In November, Council approved an investment of \$84.5 million in the 2016 Capital Budget. Highlights include:

**Light Conversion Plan** - To conserve energy, we are converting outdoor lighting to LED lights - \$12.6 million. **New Trails** include Newberry Park multi-use trail, Macleod's Landing trail connection, Elgin East multi-use trail and the TransRichmond Trail - Gamble Glen connection will be designed or constructed - \$1.5 million. **Park reconstruction** at Morgan Boyle, David Hamilton and Little Don Parks with new playground equipment and renewed sports fields - \$12.1 million. **Second ice pad at Ed Sackfield Arena** - \$13.5 million. **Road reconstruction** of local roads and underground infrastructure such as water mains and sewers on Lakeland Crescent and Demaine Crescent - \$5.8 million. **Richmond Hill Public Library** - There will be additional self-checkouts at the Central Library, a new collection of books and media for the new Oak Ridges Library, and a new website will be developed for the Richmond Hill Public Library - \$454,400.

## YORK REGION – OUR SENIORS STRATEGY

People aged 65 and older are now our fastest-growing group in York Region. Currently we are planning on how we might best serve and pay for our Seniors' needs. We are reviewing the Region's principles and policies and practices. We want to continue to build facilities, provide services, and create programs which will be delivered equitably, efficiently and economically.

York Region is reviewing the needs of our growing Seniors' population in the following general areas of life:

*Employment, Education and Volunteering*  
*Health, Well-Being and Safety*  
*Financial Security*  
*Housing and Living Arrangements*  
*Transportation*



At the local level, Richmond Hill plans for community facilities and programs to best suit the needs of our Senior population so that we may encourage social well-being and good overall health as we age. Stay active my friends!



## PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Over the past year our Town and the Region have been working with the Province to review the impact and benefits of the Provincial Growth Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. These are vital legislative protections for our natural environment. I am proud to report that Richmond Hill staff and Council recommended that the Province continue to maintain and enforce the protection of these Provincial plans. They will help ensure the quantity and quality of our drinking water, forest cover, improve wildlife habitats, improve air quality and provide respite from urban pressures. In short, they protect our quality of life!