

2010 Municipal Election Follow-Up

The Mayor has appointed me Chair of the Town's Budget Committee. As Budget Chair, I will be looking at better ways to reach out to the public – everyone lives within a budget and we all have a wish list. Where do you see the need for change? Please watch the Liberal newspaper for announcements on budget discussions or check out the Town's website at : www.richmondhill.ca

I continue my work as liaison to the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce and like other Council members will participate in Committee of the Whole meetings, Council meetings, Council Public Hearings, and I am looking forward to implementing our new Official Plan. As a Regional Councillor, I will continue working with the Planning and Economic Development Committee, the Community and Health Services Committee, Regional Council, the Don Watershed Regeneration Taskforce, the Yonge Subway Taskforce and of course my work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Over this term of office 2010 – 2014, I believe that our most important work will be the implementation of our new Regional and Town Official Plans. Within the plans, there are policies which will direct intensified development to transit supported roads and key development areas. There are policies to support the character of neighbourhoods and policies which require the inclusion of 'affordable housing' within major transit supported urban areas.

Our new official plans will help guide economic, environmentally sustainable, and people friendly development over the next 25 years of Richmond Hill and York Region's growth.



ACCESS RICHMOND HILL

your one-stop-shop for Town information

(905) 771-8800

access@richmondhill.ca

Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thank you for reading my newsletter. Questions or Concerns?

Call (905) 771-2498 or (905) 770-3386 or reach me via email:

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Brenda



*Happy New Year!
Welcome 2011*



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Hello 2011 and good bye 2010... what a difference a year makes! In 2010 we saw an unprecedented investment in our roads, community centres, parks and historic homes.

Over \$50 million dollars from the Federal, Provincial, and local government was spent on Town improvements. There were also many inconveniences as you see in this photo of "Leisure Lane".



Signs, signs, everywhere there's signs ...

Grant-Funded Infrastructure Projects 2010 - 2011

The Federal government announced infrastructure funding in 2009 in order to stimulate the flagging economy. The Town received Federal and Provincial funding for seven Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) projects and six Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) projects. Richmond Hill applied for and received almost \$30 million in funds. Here are some of the projects — all will be completed by the extended funding deadline of October 2011.

- ◆ Axminster Drive, Claridge Drive, and Leisure Lane were reconstructed.

Grant-Funded Infrastructure Projects 2010 - 2011 - - Continued

- ◆ Eyer Homestead House on Elgin Mills Road East will link the past present and future with a new park with an oversized chess board, a basketball half court and an outdoor challenge ropes course for programs to build future leaders.
- ◆ Crosby Park tennis courts and soccer field.
- ◆ Richmond Green soccer fields
- ◆ The Dorothy Price Park Play Structure and Pathway Replacement at the corner of Dunlop St. & Pugsley Ave. is complete and has ‘adult’ play structures which are well used by our actively aging population!



Eyer Homestead



Dorothy Price Park

◆ The Shaun Beggs Park (S. of Oxford St., E. of Bathurst St.) play structure replacement is now complete as is the restoration of the George Forster House, picture at left, at Rawlinson Park (Leslie St. north of Elgin Mills Rd.). This is one of York Region’s oldest designated buildings. Its restoration will allow for an all new selection of recreational and community programs beginning this Spring.



George Forster House

York Region’s Multi-Year Plan

Over this next term of office, I will be working with the York Region Community and Health Services department to implement our new Multi-Year Plan.

Based on census data these are the significant trends across York Region:

- ◆ Rapid Population Growth
- ◆ Aging Population
- ◆ Increasing Low Income Population

- ◆ More Non-Traditional Families
- ◆ Growing Need for Affordable Housing
- ◆ Increasing Diversity

With guidance from the Multi-Year Plan, Council will:

- ◆ Address key issues or challenges in our social and health services and
- ◆ Develop goals and actions for Community and Health Services to influence positive change. As always, sharing resources will be a challenge.

Giving the Gift of Life

The first time that I gave blood was in 1973. I was a student traveling cross-country and that day in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan there happened to be a blood donor clinic. I knew that my uncle had received certificates for his blood donations. He gave because his daughter was born a ‘blue baby’ and in order to survive she required an immediate full blood transfusion. I also remembered a neighbour who had a very rare blood type and he agreed to be ‘on call’ should a hospital require an emergency donation. These acts of charity by everyday, average people seemed to me to be the sort of thing that I want to be associated with and so, in the small town of Esterhazy, I had my blood type confirmed and rolled up my sleeve. The attendants were thrilled to see me. Why? Apparently I have a blood type which is shared by only 9% of the Canadian population: B positive. At that time, I just liked the sound of the message: Be positive!

Yesterday I gave blood. It took about one hour of my time mainly because there is some paper work involved. It also cost me a split second of very minor pain as the needle was inserted into my arm. For that little effort, I received a feeling of well-being and a connection to something far greater than myself. I had a feeling that I had done something vital that day and that I had helped a complete stranger. I believe that there is no more personal gift which has as much positive impact as the giving of blood.

For every unit of blood collected it is estimated that up to three lives are saved. Imagine if you could give one hour of wages and save the lives of three people! **Why then do only 4% of Canadians donate blood?**

We are fortunate to have a blood donor clinic conveniently located at Hillcrest Mall. The Town is now a ‘Partner for Life’ with the Canadian Blood Services. We are committed to delivering the gift of life on a regular basis. Now that is something to be positive about.

Children's Welfare and Inadequate Services

In 2006 York Region commissioned a social services audit to address rapid growth and changing community needs. The audit results confirmed that GTA/905 residents receive less than their fair share of funding for Adult Services, Child Care Services, Hospital Services and others. While both Regional and Town Councils continue to lobby the Province for our fair share of social services dollars, our Children’s Aid funding has fallen to the third lowest funded Children’s Aid Society Board in Ontario—receiving only 40% of every dollar given to Toronto. Our most vulnerable residents, our children require protection. They will need many community leaders to be their voice. It is fair and responsible to ask the Province for equitable funding.