

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has appointed me as their Gender Representative for International Programs. My duties will be to assist the FCM in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women as leaders in government and business. FCM's International Programs share and support community building in South Asia, Latin America, and Africa. What a great opportunity! I have much to learn.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

International Women's Day is Thursday, March 8th 2012. It is a day to recognize the contribution of women to all society. It is also a day to recognize that while we enjoy a high standard of living and quality of life in Richmond Hill, it is estimated that 70 percent of the world's poor are female.

Poverty is directly linked to being born into poverty, having limited education, no political or economic power, and being the main caregiver for children and aging parents. We can change this.



Meet me at the 2012 **Annual Seniors' Fair**

Wednesday, June 20th - - at our Centre for the Performing Arts
(Yonge St. and Wright St., north of Major Mackenzie Dr.) Details to come....

170 Languages Translated!



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:

bhogg@richmondhill.ca

Brenda



NEWSLETTER **Regional and Local Councillor** **Brenda HOGG**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012!

Welcome to 2012! This promises to be another year of growth and change as our "Town" becomes a "City"



A New City Hall?

Here we go again.... Richmond Hill's Town Offices and Council Chamber's location has always been a matter of heated discussion throughout election years. Perhaps this will be the term of office when Council finally decides if the Town needs a civic centre which is closer to the people we represent?

If you want your voice heard, stay tuned for our public consultations:

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - McConaghy Centre
Thursday, March 1, 2012 - Richvale Community Centre
Tuesday, March 6, 2012 - Bond Lake Arena & Recreation Centre
Meeting times will be confirmed shortly
For more information, call me (905) 771-2498

\$\$\$ Budget Time!

Comments? budget@richmondhill.ca

Or call 905-771-2498

We invest in our people through police and fire protection services; parkland acquisition; recreational programs; public health, daycare; subsidized housing; and parent, youth, and seniors' programs. **We also invest in our environment** through long range planning, land acquisitions, provision of clean water, management of waste and wastewater systems, tree and forest protection, and a variety of water and energy conservation methods.

The budget for the Region and Richmond Hill budget are currently being publicly debated. As our staff and Council review each department's expenditures, revenues, and wish lists, **Council has directed that the following principles guide us:** We want to maintain our current service levels. We want to keep taxes low. We want to prepare to meet future demands in a responsive and fiscally responsible manner.

To achieve this, we will plan for cautious use of our reserve funds; leverage all available funding sources eg: Development Charges DC's for new growth, grant monies from other agencies or orders of government eg: the Federal Gas Tax or the Green Municipal Funds from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Provincial grants, subsidies and we will encourage private contracting and funding partnerships where economic and practical.

Most importantly, Richmond Hill will continue to maintain our debt-free status.

Richmond Hill is one of the rare municipalities in Ontario to hold title to this claim.

At the Town and at the Region of York, we recognize the needs of our communities.

Important Town and Regional Information

Have you received your new **WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDE** and your **RESIDENTS' GUIDE**? If not, please contact my office at 905-771-2498 or you may go 'on line' at: www.richmondhill.ca

Another very helpful website for any York Region resident has been created to answer the questions and concerns particularly of new immigrants: www.yorkwelcome.ca This website is provided by all orders of government: Federal, Provincial, and Municipal and so, it offers information on housing, employment, education, and other settlement matters. Sometimes you can learn a lot about our Town and Region through the questions of a newcomer.



Our New Community Environmental Centre

1124 Elgin Mills Road East, W. of Leslie St.

Council recently celebrated the opening of our Community Environmental Centre. It is managed in partnership with Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity. The Centre accepts recyclables, re-useable materials, and waste.

For more information call: (905) 884 – 8013.

Did you know?

It's in our By-laws to use Compostable Bags

Compostable bags and paper bags are the environmentally-friendly alternative to plastic. Compostable liners are made from cornstarch or plant-based material that breaks down completely during the composting process. Plastic bags add to waste processing costs so please consider our environment and buy compostable bags.

Oak Ridges Community Centre

Bayview Avenue north
of Stouffville Rd.



In 2012, we will also celebrate the opening of the Oak Ridges Community Centre which will include a six lane leisure pool, a separate teaching tank; fitness studio, gymnasium, kitchen, program rooms and an Ecological Centre with educational programs and activities related to our natural environment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Centre is being built to a 'LEED' standard meaning that it will meet stringent energy efficiency and conservation measures through geothermal heating, solar heating, green roofs, etc.

RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT