



EVERYBODY KNOWS... Richmond Hill desperately needs a grade separation / bridge or tunnel for traffic to cross the CN tracks on Elgin Mills Road.

Although the Federal government recently approved funding for track repairs, we need a major investment. Until then, you may want to use the major roads which do accommodate both train and vehicular traffic.

IT'S A DATE!

KISS AND CRY: Hey Valentine! Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 at the Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts local Filmmaker and Producer, Sean Cisterna will present a romantic drama based on the story of Carley Allison, a promising 18 year old figure skater and singer who made medical history in her fight against a rare 1 in 3.5 billion type of sarcoma.



Special guests will be in attendance and participate in a Q&A afterwards, including Sarah Fisher (lead actress), Luke Bilyk (lead actor) and key crew.



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY: Richmond Hill is proud to proclaim March 8, 2017 as a day to celebrate the political, economic, scientific, and social contributions of all women. The Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts hosts an International Women's Day Celebration on Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 8pm. Tickets: \$30.

'Since its first observance in 1909 the size and scope of International Women's Day has evolved to reflect the ever changing landscape of the female story. Join us for this world event at the RHCPA as we celebrate the female artistic spirit with an evening of entertainment, inspiration and empowerment.'

SENIORS' CELEBRATION: In June we celebrate Seniors' month! There will be many social events including BBQ's at the Mill Pond and a show with a light lunch at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Stay tuned! There's always lots to celebrate in Richmond Hill.

Thank you for reading my newsletter. *Brenda*

If you have any comments or questions...

Please call 905-771-2498 or email brenda.hogg@richmondhill.ca
brendahogg.ca



Happy New Year



Regional and Local Councillor
Brenda HOGG

WELCOME 2017 The 150th Anniversary of CANADA!

Determining Priorities and Serving the Town of Richmond Hill: I'm concerned with the general view of 'who' government is and 'what' government does. I'll make it quick:

Government is intended to be the wedge between 'need and greed'

Government is led by elected officials who are informed by professional staff and make decisions on behalf of the public they represent. Government is intended to bring order and fair process to accommodating the needs of the majority with consideration of the minority. Government provides a regulatory framework to the public in order to encourage business development guided by laws which protect the public interest.

The public in Richmond Hill wants transit options, housing options, protected parkland, exceptional emergency services, and a fair property tax rate to maintain and provide our standard of living and quality of life. Although we are experiencing massive change, Richmond Hill continues to be one of the most desirable locations to raise a family in the Greater Toronto Area and the world.

BUDGET TIME

In November, Council approved the **Capital** Budget for 2017. A Capital Budget of \$61.8 million is planned for new civic and recreational facilities in addition to repairs or replacement of municipal infrastructure. Now, all Town Departments will present their detailed **Operating** Budgets for Council consideration. Budget meetings are open to the public and are accessible via our Town Website. For calendar times and live streaming of meetings check out the new Town website: www.richmondhill.ca

Protecting Richmond Hill's many assets ...

The Corporation of the Town owns and maintains \$1.85 billion in infrastructure assets and an additional \$87.6 million in environmental assets. Our properties include: a roadway system currently assessed at \$618.1 million, buildings (\$436.2 million) and the stormwater network (\$339 million), which together comprise 75% of the total asset value. Other assets include our water network; wastewater network; parks & outdoor recreation; vehicles & equipment; parking lots; information technology; and other equipment & materials. All buildings and property add value to our quality of life. There are many communities across Canada and throughout the world which struggle to provide the necessities for their community development.

Budget Basics for the Town and the Region of York

"The budget is a numerical expression of the policies and priorities elected officials have publicly debated and approved on behalf of our taxpayers," says the Region's Commissioner of Finance. It is worthy to note that the Town's portion of the property tax bill is 25%. In other words, 25 cents from every property tax dollar is used to provide ALL Town services. 50% of our property tax bill goes to the Region and another 25% goes to the School Board.

York Region Budget at a Glance

FAST FACTS: The Top Five Community Priorities for Policing...

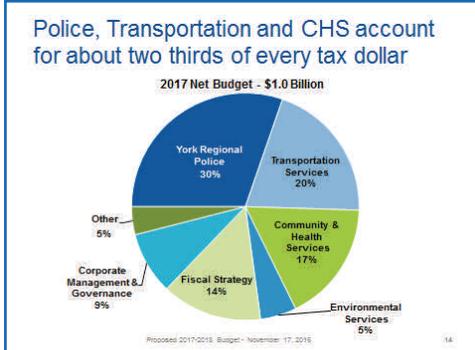
Crimes against property, traffic safety and enforcement, violent crimes, and drug control and enforcement. The 2016 community survey shows that 95.8% have confidence in York Regional Police. Although community

policing continues to respond to local needs, policing has become much more complex. We have all seen big changes to our political, social, legal, and communication systems. For example: Federal drug legislation, international fraud and human trafficking prevention, social media opinions, and information technology advances. York Regional Police have received many commendations for their community outreach service.

They are available on all social media platforms. Check out: YRP.ca

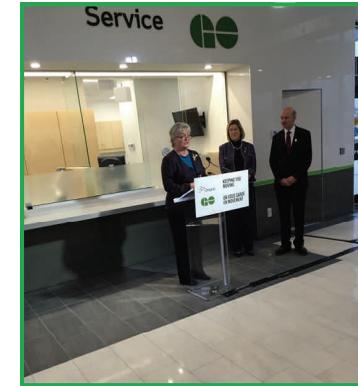
Please think before you call.

In other words, York Regional Council, after much public debate and deliberation has determined that our top three priorities are Police Services, Transportation Services, and Community and Health Services.



More Improvements to our Transportation System GORMLEY GO

December Grand Opening! Five morning and five afternoon GO train trips will serve the new station along the Richmond Hill line. GO buses will also serve the new station, with two-way midday service between Gormley and Union Station, as well as night-time service from Union Station.



The station features 850 parking spaces, electric vehicle charging stations, a bus loop, a kiss-and-ride area, heated shelters, and a platform snowmelt system for customer convenience.

QUICK FACTS: A layover train storage facility with capacity for six trains was recently built and opened in Richmond Hill.

The Gormley GO Station is fully accessible and environmentally sustainable. The Green building features include rainwater harvesting technology and innovative roofing that is made from 95% recycled materials. Careful design work also preserved the natural environment around Gormley GO Station, including a creek, a forested area and a small meadow.

Ontario invested \$22 million to build the new Gormley GO Station.

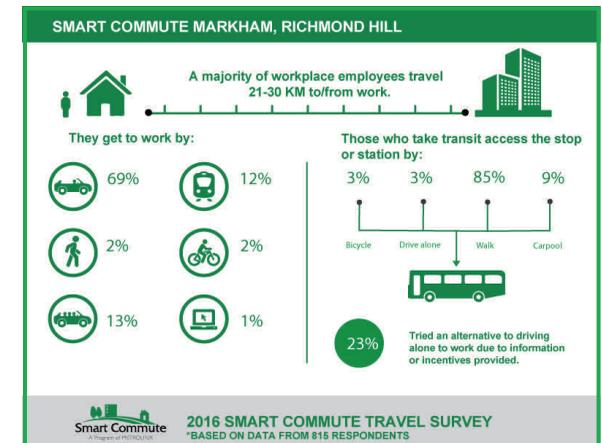
VIVANEXT on Yonge / SMART COMMUTE / YORK'S TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

As York Region continues the build out of our rapid transit VivaNext system on Yonge, the data provided by Smart Commute Markham, Richmond Hill (SCMRH) is encouraging.

NOTE: In 2016, 23% of all commuters tried an alternative to driving alone to work. Leave the car at home. Together we can reduce gridlock, improve air quality, and support our transit investments.

In conjunction with our traffic management partners, York Region's Traffic Safety Program at York.ca is committed to:

- ◆ Raise public awareness of traffic safety issues.
- ◆ Enforce the law.
- ◆ Make improvements to roads and intersections.
- ◆ Improve the design of new roads in the Region.
- ◆ Increase pedestrian safety.
- ◆ Encourage the 'Pledge to Ignore' campaign.



Is it an EMERGENCY? MEANING is it critical to life or death? Call 911

SAVE A LIFE - GET OFF THE CELL PHONE AND DRIVE!