

Pension Plan Poor?

Did you know that 11 million Canadians have no private pension at all? A growing population of seniors is facing real poverty and they shouldn't have to give up their homes to solve the problem. In June, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities called upon the Federal government to improve our Canadian public pension system so that no senior lives in poverty.

York Region has a fabulous new website designed for New Immigrants:

www.yorkwelcome.ca But you don't have to be an immigrant to benefit from the wealth of information available through York Region's Welcome Website! Whether you are looking for employment, housing, or government services, the welcome website will assist.



Are you confused by the mountains of information and the vast array of choices?

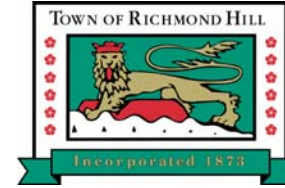
Access Richmond Hill is your one-stop-shop for Town information. We welcome all people and we offer a variety of languages... Cantonese, Korean, French, and Farsi just to name a few.

ACCESS RICHMOND HILL
(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
SUMMER / FALL 2010



Brenda HOGG
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Deputy Mayor
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Welcome to Summer! As I walk around Town, I have noticed a number of residents are expressing their political views by flying the Canadian flag or tying a yellow ribbon around a tree to await the return of our soldiers. Some have created their own Inukshuk for their garden. What a wonderfully Canadian symbol to engender a sense of National pride.



The Inukshuk symbolizes leadership, strength, longevity, and uniqueness. It has a powerful spiritual statement: We are Canadian!



The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

I am very proud to announce my re-election to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors in June. The National Board of Directors sets policy priorities that reflect the concerns of municipal governments and affiliate members. Through the lobbying efforts of the FCM, Richmond Hill has received millions of dollars for our road, water, sewer and environmental projects.

What an adventure creating a new Official Plan for Richmond Hill...



Over the past term of office, hundreds of people have participated in the creation of our Town's new Official Plan. The Province told us to prepare for an increase in population and to plan for servicing that population with employment opportunities, security by police and fire services, roads, transit, water, sewer, parkland, and many other services which are provided for by the local level of government.

Here are some of the highlights of the new Official Plan:

We have determined what we value as a community. We want some buildings and open space protected. We want to support intensified development rather than continue to build new and we want to direct higher density development to support our public transit lines on Yonge and across Hwy 7. Basement apartments will be allowed – but only with conditions: it must be a safe apartment meeting fire code and building code approvals, close to transit, with appropriate parking and respectful of existing neighbourhoods. I know what you are thinking – sounds great but how will you implement it? In stages... and phases ... and still with a few challenges at the Ontario Municipal Board – but there should be fewer OMB challenges because we have done our homework. Our Official Plan is supported by many professional studies and reports which we commissioned to broaden our scope and support the legitimacy of our decisions.

David Dunlap Observatory

Over the past three years, the Council of Richmond Hill, the David Dunlap Observatory Defenders, and the Richmond Hill Naturalists have worked in different ways to protect and preserve the David Dunlap Observatory and lands. Council has reached out to the Federal and Provincial governments through meetings, Council resolutions, letters and phone calls but we have never received a commitment from other levels of government to provide protection for this historic property. Many residents share our concern and interest in protecting the cultural and natural heritage of this property. Many want 100% park and observatory protection. That would require an outright expropriation and purchase from a willing seller. I continue to believe that the local property taxpayer should not be expected to pay for a property deserving of National and Provincial heritage recognition. At this late date, when we are close to finalizing our new Official Plan, the DDO is on the verge of having some of its property approved for development. See the draft Official Plan (Chapter 4. 9.1.4) on our Town website: www.richmondhill.ca

Olympic Spirit and Our Canadian Pride!

JULY 1ST = HAPPY CANADA DAY!



As we celebrate Canada Day, consider these facts...

- ◆ From 2001 – 2006, York Region grew by 22% or 163,458 people.
- ◆ 96,735 of these new residents were not born in Canada.
- ◆ York region is home to more than 380,500 immigrants (43% of the York Region population in 2006 – Statistics Canada.)
- ◆ Immigrants are most commonly of working age (between ages of 25 and 44 when they immigrate to Canada.)
- ◆ By 2011, it is estimated that immigration will account for 100% of Canada's net labour force growth.
- ◆ Immigration will account for all net population growth sometime between 2026 and 2031.
- ◆ 92% of York Region residents are Canadian citizens, regardless of their country of birth.

Immigrants who choose to live in York Region are generally highly-skilled and well-educated but for their first five years in their chosen country, they earn less than Canadian-born workers due in part to cultural and language challenges. It is important to the economy of Richmond Hill and York Region that we help residents integrate quickly so that they may participate fully in building and maintaining our quality of life and standard of living.