

# Tastes of the Hill

The 2009 Tastes of the Hill held on October 4, 2009 was a huge success. Over 40 restaurants and food vendors served mouth watering food samples to over 1000 people that attended this year's event. This year the crowd was entertained by musicians, dancers, Doo Doo the Clown and our mascots Sparky, Blue Box and Green Bin. The event was fun

for the whole family and we raised \$70,000 in net proceeds. The proceeds will be shared by Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold a not for profit agency that provides emergency shelter and food for the homeless, and Rose of Sharon which helps young mothers complete their high school education and teach them parenting skills.



Tora Restorante

I want to thank committee members, all the sponsors, the entertainers, the many volunteers and everyone that attended and supported Tastes of the Hill. For more information go to [www.vspatafora.com](http://www.vspatafora.com)

## Access!

is a one-window contact centre located on the main floor of the municipal offices that respond to general inquiries. Incoming calls and walk-ins are tracked and monitored. As of November 2009 Access Richmond Hill will

handle waste management inquiries and have a supply of blue boxes and green bins. Other services provided include

- Tax, water bill and parking ticket payments and receipts
- Marriage licenses
- Tender, proposal or quote packages
- In person registration for recreational programs
- Facilities bookings
- Tree and Park maintenance requests

To contact Access Richmond Hill call (905) 771-8800 or go to [www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca)



Eid Al-Adha

Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Chanukah

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Kung Hei Fat Choi



## Fall Winter 2009 - 2010

Over the past year many events and activities have had an impact on our community. This newsletter serves to highlight a few of the more prominent issues that I would like to share with you.

### David Dunlap Observatory Planning Study



The David Dunlap Observatory (DDO), Canada's largest reflector telescope, is situated on 189 acres of land in the heart of Richmond Hill. The historical importance of the DDO dates back to 1935 with Dr. Helen Sawyer Hogg who pioneered astronomical research of cluster stars and Dr. Thomas Bolton's verification of the black hole in 1971.

The University of Toronto announcement to sell the land to developers was a shock to area residents, Town staff and Council. Over the past 2 years commendable efforts were made by all parties to save and protect as much of the site as possible from development. Following an intense study and the adoptions of the recommendations from the Conservation Review Board, Richmond Hill Council approved By-Law 100-09 designating the DDO and surrounding lands a cultural heritage site.

As a next step, the Planning Department commenced the DDO Management and Planning Study. The purpose of the study is to establish a Conservation Management Plan that will assist in managing and protecting the heritage attributes, and to develop a land use vision and strategic direction for the future of this unique site. A number of public input meetings are planned during late fall. For more information call Joanne Leung Manager of Urban Design Planning at 905-771-5498 or go to the town website at [www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca).

### Leslie Street-Don Mills Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Project

Metrolinx, the Provincial agency enacted to plan and direct transit development in the Greater Toronto Area, approved the 2008 study entitled The Big Move. The study identified sustainable transit corridors and links including the Don Mills/Leslie Street LRT connecting the Bloor-Danforth Subway in Toronto north to Major Mackenzie in Richmond Hill. York Region and the City of Toronto are coordinating their efforts to complete an Environmental Assessment for their section of the route. The findings will be presented at public consultation meetings scheduled during the late fall. Final approval of the proposed Don Mill/Leslie Street LRT is projected for February 2010.



For more information on this report please contact  
Dino Basso, Director, Capital Delivery, Roads Branch  
at 1-877-464-9675 extension 5902 or email [Dino.Basso@york.ca](mailto:Dino.Basso@york.ca)

## Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA)

The Government of Ontario enacted AODA in 2005 to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to goods and services. To achieve this goal, public and private organizations that provide goods and services will have to meet accessibility standards in the following 5 areas: customer services; transportation; information and communications; employment; and, built environment. The Province plans to phase-in the accessibility standards over the next 15 years.

To help develop and phase-in accessibility standards, the Province appointed the Accessible Built Environment Standards Development Committee (ABE-SDC).



ABE-SDC identified building standards that ensure both the exterior and interior of buildings are totally accessible.

The proposed standards require that all new construction, extensive renovation and buildings with changed uses comply with the new standards. The new standards are directed at public and private organizations, but private home owners are not required to comply.



ABE-SDC proposes that once the new standards are passed, compliance will be within one year for new construction and up to 3 years for large renovations. The Province expects that new standards will be in all existing public and private buildings by 2025, yet the new standards have not been harmonized with the Ontario Building Code and other related legislation.

Though the intent to eliminate barriers is desirable, the financial impact of the new standards on municipalities, public institutions and private organizations will be significant. While the provincial study has some preliminary costs, the costs to renovate and retrofit existing buildings have not been considered. The financial burden on tax payers and private organizations may be excessive and the timelines to implement the changes unrealistic. The province should develop a plan to harmonize the new accessibility standards with other provincial legislation to give organizations time to plan and secure the funding for building projects.

## Community Planning

The growth and development of communities in Southern Ontario, particularly the Greater Golden Horseshoe, over the past 15 years has forced all levels of government to review and assess their policies to direct where and how growth will occur.

### Provincial Role

The community planning process starts with broad policy guidelines enacted by the Provincial Government (e.g. Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan etc). These policies require municipalities to update their growth management strategies and their official plans.

### Regional Role

York Region is an upper tier municipality consisting of 9 lower tier municipalities, including the Town of Richmond Hill. Both York Region and Richmond Hill are required to update their Growth Management Strategies and Official Plans (OP) to conform to Provincial policies.

York Region is expected to promote:

- Higher density development along major arterial roads
- Rapid transit/transportation system to move people, good and services
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. Oak Ridges Moraine)

Over the past four years, York Region has responded to Provincial policy with a number of planning and human services studies. Currently the Region is in the final phases of releasing the *Draft Region Official Plan*. Public consultation was scheduled during the summer and fall of 2009. The final Official Plan will be presented to Regional Council for approval by the end of 2009 and then sent to the Province for ratification. Copies of the Draft Official Plan are available on line at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) or in print by contacting the Planning and Economic Development Department at 1-877-464-9675 ext 1508. Comments can be sent by email to [futureyork@york.ca](mailto:futureyork@york.ca) or mail to

York Region-Planning and Economic Development Department  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



## Town of Richmond Hill Official Plan

During the past two years the Town of Richmond Hill Planning Department has held many public input meetings to create a new strategic plan to guide the future development of our community. The Strategic Plan was recently adopted by Council as the new policy guidelines for development. These policies will form the basis for the new official plan study that will specify future land uses. Underlying the Town's development plans are the Provincial and Regional policies and growth projections for 2031 that estimate a population of 242,800 and an employment forecast of 99,400 jobs.

The Official Plan will separate the Natural Environment from the Built-up Community. Environmental lands will be protected and enhanced. Greenway Systems such as parks, ponds and other public lands, as well as rural areas and the Oak Ridges Moraine will be connected.

Economic policies will focus on protecting and intensifying employment lands in the urban centres and transportation corridors.

The Official Plan shall identify several categories of urban centres. The Regional Centre with the rapid transit hub at Yonge and Highway 7 has the highest density of development. Local Development Areas such as the GO Station at Major Mackenzie and Newkirk will have lower density development.

The Town's planning strategy will focus on developing complete communities with a broad range of housing. The degrees of intensification of development will be highest in the regional centre and lowest in the residential neighbourhoods.

Public input on the policy documents will be accepted up until November 30, 2009. A draft Official Plan for the Town should be available for review by the spring of 2010. Policy papers are posted online at [www.richmondhill.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ca) under People Plan Richmond Hill.

For more information or comments concerning the Official Plan, please call Mr. Paul Freeman, Manager of Policy at 905-771-2472 or e-mail [officialplan@richmondhill.ca](mailto:officialplan@richmondhill.ca)

