



Oak Ridges Councillor



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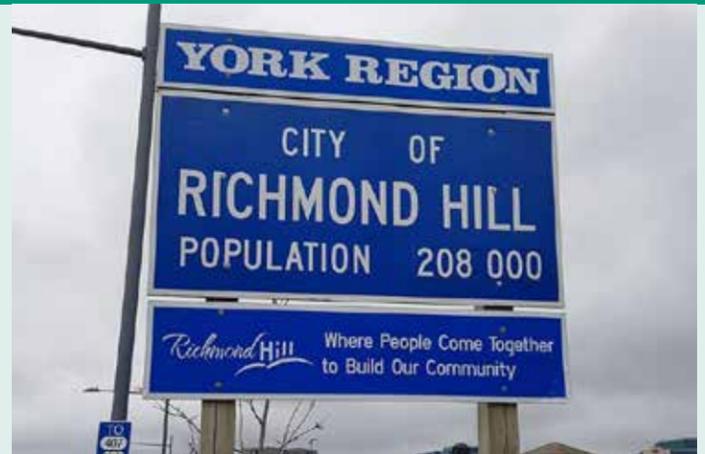
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“A look at my contribution to the first 100 days of the new Council”

Richmond Hill Goes from Town to a City

Since being elected 12 years ago, I have continuously advocated for the Town of Richmond Hill to become the City of Richmond Hill. I introduced my first motion in December 2013 to change the municipality’s status believing that this shift would lend our growth ambitions greater credibility. Unfortunately, the rest of Council did not agree with me.

On March 25th, 2019, my motion was reintroduced and finally passed. As of April 19, 2019, the Town of Richmond Hill officially became the City of Richmond Hill.



Council, Staff and Audience to Stand for O Canada at Council Meetings

In Spring of 2015, I moved a motion to start Council meetings with the Canadian national anthem. I was unsuccessful with my motion due to the lack of votes on council.



On March 25th, 2019 my motion to play Canada’s national anthem at the beginning of all Council meetings was passed. All the residents I spoke to agreed that Canadian identity and national symbols like O Canada unite Canadians and provide a joint sense of pride. I believe it is the right thing to do.

Municipality-wide Snow Windrow Clearing

Since the beginning of my first term, I have publicly advocated for city-wide windrow snow clearing. Whether it be in person or through phone calls and e-mails, the residents in my ward have communicated to me how important snow-windrow clearing is to them. I have always agreed with them, but until this term, I was unable to get the votes from my colleagues on Council to be able to get it implemented. I am very proud to announce that windrow snow removal will be starting this fall.



Subway



The Province has mandated that Richmond Hill take in tens of thousands of new residents, they gave us no choice. Richmond Hill’s official plan, drafted in 2010, called for greater density at Yonge and Highway 7. Congestion on Yonge Street is already unbearable and the addition of new vehicles on the roads would not make this situation any better. Now that the subway extension is official, I am looking forward to seeing some relief and reduced congestion on Yonge St.

Regional Alternate

On Thursday, March the 21st, 2019, I took my declaration of office and first seat at York Regional Council as the Regional Alternate of Richmond Hill. Local municipalities have the option to appoint one of their members to act as an alternate when any of the Regional Councillors or the Mayor are unable to attend a Regional Council meeting.

Being a Regional Alternate is something I take great pride in, and do not take lightly. Richmond Hill Regional Councillors represent the interests of all of the residents in their municipality as a whole. As a Regional Alternate, I am now able to voice the concerns that residents are passionate about when one of the two Regional Councillors or the Mayor are unable to attend a meeting.

Why is this important? When one of the two Regional Councillors or the Mayor are unable to attend, Richmond Hill residents risk losing their voice. As Councillors, resident concerns are our main priority. As your new Regional Alternate, I am here to step up to the plate and ensure that each and every one of your issues are brought to the region when needed.



Oak Ridge's Library

The Oak Ridge's Library opening date has been delayed for longer than anticipated due to issues with various contractors. During the building process, I have been in constant communication with the Commissioner of Environment & Infrastructure Services to ensure that residents get the most up to date information. I have been sure to update residents via social media and e-mail the moment I got any information.

The latest update I have received is that the new contractor is working on the last 8% of the remaining work, which includes interior and exterior finishes. The subcontractors are fully engaged and actively doing work. The library will need 6 weeks to transition to the new building once it is turned over to the City. Based on all of the information that we have received, the library should be operational by late fall of 2019. We are actively working with the contractor to move this date forward.

The new Oak Ridge's Library will be a 19,000 sq. ft. stand-alone LEED silver certified facility located at the northwest corner of Yonge Street and Regatta Avenue in the City of Richmond Hill and will consist of two storeys, a basement, and above grade parking on site.



Lake Wilcox Park Youth Area Opening

Since 2006, the construction of Lake Wilcox Park and its surrounding areas have become one of my most important projects. A few years ago, I pushed for the completion of the Lake Wilcox shoreline. After the shoreline was completed, I pushed for the completion of the Splash Pad. Now, located in the heart of Oak Ridges, Lake Wilcox is a great place to go with your family and friends to enjoy the afternoon relaxing by the lake, walking on the shoreline or watching your children play in the Splash Pad.

I am pleased to announce that the Youth Park at Lake Wilcox will be opening this summer. I have been working closely with City staff to finalize the Youth Park grand opening, which will be on **Saturday June 8 from 1-4pm**.

This new area is a unique space for youth (ages 13 to 19+) and will be located south of the Oak Ridges Community Center at the corner of Bayview Park Lane and Bayview Avenue. Come hang out, socialize, and get active with our unique recreation amenities.

The park includes: A lit concrete skate park, Four lit beach volleyball courts, Two lit multi-use courts for basketball, ball hockey or futsal soccer, Fitness equipment, Wi-Fi Access and more...

There is no need to travel far for fun activities by the lake with the entire family! Oak Ridge's residents are fortunate to have these amenities close by. I hope to see you and your family at the grand opening.



Ward 1 Oak Ridges Councillor

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