

Region releases road map to our future

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Consider it your road map to the future, a time machine owners manual, and it's yours for the asking.

Ground-breaking Vision 2051, a document two years in the making and designed to guide us four decades forward, is a fascinating vision for York Region's future, containing bold and innovative actions that promote our health and well-being and the liveability and sustainability of our communities.

The 32-page report, endorsed by regional council, has special meaning for head of Strategic Initiatives Karen Antonio-Hadcock, who led the four-member in-house research and production team.

"We're incredibly proud and excited for the region," she said, referring to recently retired long-range and strategic planning director John Waller, planner Trish Elliot and graphic designer Ingrid Roberts. "This is probably the most rewarding project I've completed in my professional career."

Distilling input from more than 2,000 residents, community organizations, regional government and businesses, the document expresses what people want York Region to be like in 40 years.

Aliving document, Vision 2051 updates Vision 2026 as the region's primary long-range plan and will influence regional staff decisions while guiding council, Ms Antonio-Hadcock said.

The new survey is a companion to the

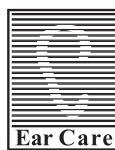
region's strategic plan that is set up in four-year horizons, corresponding with the terms of regional council.

A view to the future required a look to the past for the research team. Offering a retrospective to 1971 when the region was created, Vision 2051 documents York's spectacular growth to date. In 40 years our population grew from 169,000 to almost 1.1 million. By 2051 it's estimated York will have 1.8 million residents. Of this citizenry, 23 per cent will be over 65 and six of 10 residents will be newcomers to Canada. The 322,000 households today will double in 40 years, the report predicted. The majority will be located in Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham and Newmarket along main corridors including Hwy. 7 Yonge Street and Davis Drive.

Our current 516,000 jobs will grow to more than one million in 2051. Technology will play a critical role in daily lives, water and waste will be critical resources and our native and nature green spaces will be preserved, the report foreshadowed.

Amongst the myriad of findings and projections, Ms. Antonio-Hadcock found it interesting that issues facing the region 1971, including growth and diversity, continue to challenge planners today and into the future.

Vision 2051 is posted on york.ca and is available through Facebook and Twitter. Vision 2051 will be distributed widely to local municipalities, community partners and stakeholders. Print copies are available by visiting york.ca/vision2051 or calling 905-830-4444, Ext. 1530.



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