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YORK REGION: Residents invited to take part in workshop series

Planning for the Millennium examines growth

BY LISA QUEEN
 STAFF WRITER

Growth:
 It's a word that means different things to different people. The environmentalist looks at development from one perspective, the business owner from another.

Regardless of their point of view, residents feel passionately about the pace of growth in York Region.

They worry about how it will affect their communities, their schools, their hospitals, their daily lives.

With 15 months to go before the

millennium, York officials want residents to help them take stock of the region's growth.

Has it been handled well in the past? What changes need to be put in place now to ensure the region is the type of place we want to hand over to our children and grandchildren?

Next month, the region is hosting a workshop series, known as Planning for the Millennium, which will allow residents to voice their concerns and ideas. Municipal experts will lead the discussions.

The series will kick off Oct. 1 with a

visual preference survey. Held at the City Playhouse Theatre in Vaughan, participants will detail the type of community they want by rating slides. The event runs from 7 to 9 p.m.

York is home to many creative artists, who have a unique view of the region.

Residents are invited to view the artists' images being displayed at the region's headquarters in Newmarket, 17250 Yonge St., from Oct. 1 to 31.

The issue of community services will be discussed Oct. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the headquarters.

Worried about urban sprawl? Attend the workshop that deals with this issue Oct. 14 at the headquarters from 7 to 9 p.m.

The region faces a major challenge in building and financing infrastructure.

How will the region finance the \$5 billion required to accommodate 1.1 million people by 2021? The seminar on Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon will be held at regional headquarters.

Regardless of their point of view, residents feel passionately about the pace of growth in York Region.

Visit part of the extensive greenlands system. Learn why these areas are important to the region and explore how different ecosystems work.

Light hiking is involved in this mobile workshop Oct. 7 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The bus will leave from the main entrance of the headquarters. The cost is \$10.

Another mobile workshop will be held Oct. 15. Tour the region to see how innovative street designs can help accommodate traffic, while creating people places that complement adjacent communities. The tour runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10.

York is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. Tour several communities and learn how good urban designs can protect rural areas, create attractive communities and provide housing options.

The bus leave the headquarters at 10 a.m. and the tour costs \$10.

Learn about industry in the region at the Oct. 29 mobile workshop, which will run from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The bus tour, leaving from the headquarters, costs \$10.

To find out more about these and other workshops, call the region's planning department at 773-3004 or 731-0201.

The region is also asking residents to fill out a report card, outlining how well the region has handled growth in the past.

Residents can comment on everything from the natural environment to the region's economy to transit.

The report cards are available from the region's planning department.



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