

Open House



Your community, your say.

York Region is planning for the future and wants your input

The Regional Municipality of York continues to plan for the future and is looking for your input and ideas. York Region is expected to grow to 1.79 million people and 900,000 jobs by 2041. To accommodate this growth and be at the forefront of best practices, York Region is reviewing and updating a number of its long-term strategic plans.

Three plans under review are:

- The **Regional Official Plan** outlines the policies of York Region to guide growth management, economic, environmental and community planning decisions.
- The **Transportation Master Plan** establishes the vision for transportation services, assesses existing transportation system performance, forecasts future travel demand and defines projects and strategies to address road, transit and active transportation needs.
- The **Water and Wastewater Master Plan** ensures water and wastewater systems meet current and future demands and are able to provide safe, cost efficient and reliable services to the Region's communities.

Your community, your say.

Input from residents and the business community is key to the success of these updates. Comments and feedback on any or all of these plans can be given through York.ca, social media and at open houses. The first round of open houses includes:

| Municipality | Location | Date | Time |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| City of Vaughan | Novotel Toronto Vaughan Centre 200 Bass Pro Mills Drive | November 11, 2014 | 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. |
| Town of Newmarket | Newmarket Community Centre 200 Doug Duncan Drive | November 12, 2014 | 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. |
| City of Markham | Thornhill Community Centre 7755 Bayview Avenue | November 18, 2014 | 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. |

If you require accommodation to fully participate in an open house, accessible formats or communication supports, please contact 1-888-256-1112 or AccessYork@york.ca

Master Plan updates will follow requirements of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment master planning process. Completion of these reviews is expected in early 2016.

For information about the projects and upcoming events, visit www.york.ca

Input regarding these plans is being collected in accordance with applicable legislation. Personal information you submit will become part of the public record available to the public, unless you request this information remain confidential.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

Town paid heavy price at Vimy

BY FRED ROBBINS

During the First World War, villages, towns and cities along the old trench line in France were completely disappeared.

Destruction within range of the guns, which remained in almost the same position for three years, was absolute. This is the 100th anniversary of that war.

In northern France, most of the battles and bloodiest engagements were fought. Ypres, Vimy and Bapaume were obliterated. In scores of cases, not a single brick was left whole.

As part of a British offensive around Arras in April 1917, the Canadian corps was to seize heavily fortified Vimy Ridge in France. The Canadians carefully planned and rehearsed their attack. At 5:30 a.m. April 9, all four Canadian divisions advanced together for the first time. They would capture the long ridge.

The cost to Canada was high, 3,598 killed and more than 7,000 wounded. Their determination earned them a reputation as formidable, effective troops.

Many friends, neighbours and relatives were touched by Vimy Ridge. During the delayed re-opening of Melville church on Warden Avenue Sept. 2, 1924, a special part of the service was the unveiling of a tablet to the memory of Harry W. Cook, one of the Melville boys who was killed at Vimy Ridge. The family of Mr. and Mrs. John Cowperthwaite had lost one their six boys, killed at Vimy. Dr. Jessie Brodie, formerly of University of Toronto, lost his oldest brother, Alex H. Brodie, who died of wounds received at Vimy Ridge.

YOUNG FATHER KILLED

Private Fred Jennings of Stouffville paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of the Allied cause. A letter announcing his sad fate on April 9, 1917 in the fight at Vimy Ridge, came from the chaplain of his battalion.

He was the son of Jacob Jennings and Mary Ann Vague and the husband of Fern Saunders Pearson. They had been married only a short time. A child was born while Fred was overseas. Fred was popular in Stouffville as was evident by the many expressions of regret.

Wilmot Kester is a well-known name in the history of Stouffville, centered in the east end. He had a commendable military career. At the young age of 17, he enlisted with the Canadian Mounted Rifles at Prince Rupert, Sask. and went with the Canadian forces to South Africa at the time of the Boer War.

Later he served in the Imperial Army in England and at one time was also a member

of the Canadian volunteer militia. In 1915 he enlisted at Toronto in the 81st infantry battalion and served in France from the time his unit landed there until the end of the war. He was in some of the important engagements in which Canadian forces participated, amongst them the battle of Somme, the Ypres Salient and Vimy Ridge.

He was the recipient of a federal pension for injuries received overseas. He died at age 41 and was buried in the town cemetery, where he was accorded military honours by the Stouffville War Veterans.

MEMORIAL PARK MONUMENT

Vimy Ridge is the final resting place of so many. A large monument, 40 feet high over the field below, is impressive and yet daunting to all who visit the site. The memorial stands on Hill 145, the primary objective for the Canadian forces in 1917.

The great monument is inscribed with the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were listed as "missing, presumed dead" in France. It stands as a tribute to all who served their country in battle and risked or gave their lives in the war and paid such a price to help ensure the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

In 1951, Bert Lickorish, representing the Stouffville Veterans, waited on council and discussed the suggestion of a Memorial Cairn, on which would be engraved the names of the First and Second Veterans, which were originally planned for the new Memorial Park gates to be erected in the spring of 1951.

The Legion, in 1959, was hoping to embark on another campaign, the erection of a war memorial in the park. Such a cairn should have been built here many years ago. Harry Burgess built the cairn and fellow veteran Walter Smith assisted with the wrought iron railing around the base. This cenotaph was built on a base that once held guns that were loaned to the Board of Trade in 1930 in trust for the people of Canada. Those very guns were captured April 9 at Vimy Ridge.

The special place of gathering was for a long time in the history of Stouffville the centre of many Remembrance Day gatherings.

The opportunity to enhance a central piece of our history is gone. Its base was removed this fall. A replacement may come, yet the damage is done and the hurt still is there. Hopefully the new memorial will bring to light the cost of those fallen lives given; the supreme sacrifice - We WILL remember THEM.

Fred Robbins is a Stouffville historian.



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