



Town of Richmond Hill

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PEOPLE PLAN RICHMOND HILL ACTIVITIES IN FULL SWING

Town encourages more residents and businesses to join their community in planning its future

RICHMOND HILL - It's not too late to take part in the *People Plan Richmond Hill* consultation process and make a difference in the future of the community! Since the launch of *People Plan Richmond Hill* in October 2007, more than 700 people from Richmond Hill have been involved in consultation with Council and Town staff sharing their hopes and expectations for the community.

"We have received a lot of valuable information from our community from the many *People Plan* activities thus far. For example, at the Summit we heard that well-linked transportation systems, increased parkland and providing top quality amenities continue to be hot topics for residents," said Mayor Dave Barrow.

At the Summit held in November 2007, invited participants expressed their perceptions about the Town's core strengths, opportunities that could be pursued, vision statements, issues and challenges facing the Town as well as benchmarks for success. Memorable quotes by participants about the Town include, "A highly accessible and culturally diverse community that shares its resources to create environmental and economic self-sustainability" and "A world class sustainable community which integrates the partnership of the public and private sectors through its diversity." Further details of Summit findings are available in the *People Plan* Summit Overview posted at www.richmondhill.ca/peopleplan.

The Town's *People Plan* Ambassadors have also been actively engaging the community by hosting information sessions at community centres and meeting with diverse community groups, such as the Youth Action Committee, Richmond Hill Lions' Club, the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Heritage Richmond Hill. At all of these events, staff were on hand to discuss the *People Plan* process with community members, whose input will help shape the Town's updated Strategic Plan and new Official Plan.

"Many people participated in *People Plan* by completing a *People Plan* Kit. From these kits, we received interesting photos of people's favourite places in the Town, messages about what they like about the Town and many suggestions for the future of the Town," said Gwen Manderson, Director of Strategic Initiatives. "As *People Plan* moves into its second phase, we hope to encourage even more participation from residents and businesses and youth and seniors as everyone's input is valuable."



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“We would also like to thank all those who have submitted their photos and essays for the contests and encourage more participation in these *People Plan* activities because we want to know what our residents and businesses think about the Town,” Ms Manderson added.

The next phase of *People Plan Richmond Hill* will focus on *People Plan* staff meeting with the various cultural communities, community groups and businesses to learn more about their ideas from their unique perspective. Community groups and businesses who would like to participate in *People Plan* are invited to contact the Town to arrange to have a *People Plan* Ambassador attend these meetings. *People Plan* Ambassadors will also visit schools informing students about the project and encouraging participation in the youth essay contest.

People Plan Richmond Hill is a project that considers the needs of the community and will result in two important documents – an updated Strategic Plan, which focuses on the goals and aspirations of the people of Richmond Hill and a new Official Plan, which describes land-use policies, such as new housing, businesses, schools, etc.

Findings will be reported to Committee of the Whole on February 19 and a public presentation of the findings from the project will be shared with Council on February 25. Everyone is welcome to attend both meetings.

For more information, please visit www.richmondhill.ca/peopleplan.

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*This document was produced by Communication Services Division staff, Department of the CAO,
at the Town of Richmond Hill.*