



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town and YMCA moving forward with potential Health & Active Living Plaza partnership

(Sharon, ON) Wednesday, September 7, 2016 – The Town of East Gwillimbury and the YMCA of Greater Toronto are pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that sets the stage for a potential partnership at the Health & Active Living Plaza proposed for East Gwillimbury.

This is the first milestone in a long-term plan for a multi-functional municipal plaza, offering a variety of convenient and complimentary recreational, health, arts, culture, and community services. The plaza is projected to open once the population of the Town reaches 40,000 residents, which is estimated to be by approximately 2020.

“The Health & Active Living Plaza has the potential to offer unprecedented community service delivery,” says Mayor Virginia Hackson. “This MOU is yet another example of how the Town leverages partnerships for the benefit of our community. This potential partnership will result in significant cost savings for the Town in tax dollars over the next 50 years. When we can provide quality programs and services while limiting the cost to residents, that’s a huge win.”

The MOU sets out a plan for a Market Study, which will be used to inform future decisions regarding the nature and timing of the potential partnership with the YMCA.

Through this potential partnership, the Town will provide residents with enhanced service delivery, while decreasing capital and operating costs over the long term. The projected savings amount to approximately \$20 million in day-to-day operating costs and \$10 million in repair and replacement costs over the next 50 years.

Based on preliminary concept designs the Plaza’s total projected construction cost is approximately \$38 million. In keeping with Council’s commitment that growth pays for growth, the Town portion of the construction cost will be entirely funded through non tax sources including development charges.

“The YMCA of Greater Toronto is excited about this potential partnership with the Town of East Gwillimbury,” says Medhat Mahdy, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Toronto. “The YMCA’s focus on building strong, healthy communities aligns with the Health & Active Living Plaza vision. As this community grows investing in its overall health – spirit, mind and body – and taking fundamental steps in building healthy infrastructure is extremely important. Health is an investment; healthy places and healthy programs are critical to fostering healthy people. The YMCA looks forward to working with the Town to help move this project forward.”

The MOU highlights the following YMCA services as potential inclusions at the plaza:

- Active living and sports programs
- Aquatics programs (including lane swim, leisure swim and instructional swim lessons)
- Fitness and fitness-related programming
- Child care services
- Day camps
- Immigrant Services
- Youth programs, including counselling and leadership
- Older adult services
- Employment services
- Gymnasium drop-in sports services

The plaza will also be home to a new location for the East Gwillimbury Public Library, feature a variety of indoor and outdoor parks, recreational services, Town services, and arts and culture services. Staff will continue to develop partnerships with other health and community service providers. Facility design is expected in 2018 with construction planned to begin in 2019.



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Artistic Rendering of Exterior Boardwalk:



Artistic Rendering of Exterior:



For more information:

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