

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Town moves forward with partnerships for the Health & Active Living Plaza*

(Sharon, ON) April 5, 2018 – The Town of East Gwillimbury is excited to announce that staff are finalizing partnership agreements for the Health & Active Living Plaza (HALP). Staff are now moving into phase two of the planning process to formalize partnerships in advance of facility design work.

The HALP is proposed to feature a Town operated aquatic facility and a library branch and is planned to be built once the population reaches 40,000 residents. The facility will be paid for using funding from development charges with no construction costs to the tax payer, and without the issuance of debt.

East Gwillimbury is projected to grow to a population of approximately 50,000 residents over the next five to seven years. With the delays in long-term sewage servicing, the Town is limited to further growth. To effectively manage the current phase of growth staff are scaling the scope of the HALP to ensure it is designed in a fiscally responsible manner. Staff will report back to Council with updated plans and financial implications of the scale of the build later in 2018.

Following a market review in 2017, the Town is pleased to be moving forward with a revised partnership with the YMCA of Greater Toronto within the plaza. The market review identified the following partnership services:

- Childcare services
- Children and youth programs
- Youth leadership/volunteer programming

“The Town is excited to be partnering with the YMCA of Greater Toronto for the Health & Active Living Plaza. As our Town grows, the partnership with the Y will provide enhanced services and valuable resources for our residents. Ensuring we have services for childcare, and new residents continues to be a priority of Council,” said Mayor Virginia Hackson.

“The YMCA of Greater Toronto is excited that the potential partnership in the Health & Active Living Plaza is close to being finalized,” said Medhat Mahdy, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Toronto. “The Y’s commitment to building strong, healthy communities aligns with the Plaza’s vision. Collaboration makes healthy infrastructure investments of this scale possible and we look forward to continuing to work with the Town of East Gwillimbury to help make the community’s vision a reality. Our initial focus

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is on finalizing three youth-focused programs, however, we hope that our involvement may evolve over time to help meet the needs of this growing community.”

As part of the Town’s commitment to ensuring the plaza brings together convenient and complimentary services, the Town is pleased to announce that we are also moving forward with memorandums of understanding with the following potential partners:

## Health Services

- York Region Community & Health Services
- Southlake Regional Health Centre
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Canadian Mental Health Association

## Active Living

- Aquatics facility and gymnasium (Town of East Gwillimbury)
- York North Basketball Association

## Learning Arts Culture and Diversity

- East Gwillimbury Public Library
- York Region District School Board
- York Region Catholic District School Board
- York Region Arts Council
- nPower (Information Technology training for youth)

## Public Community & Social Services

- YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of York Region
- Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)
- York Regional Police
- Neighbourhood Network

The Town will be working with each of these partners to create flexible and functional permit and program space to allow for complimentary services within the HALP. Examples of potential service options include:

- Health promotion and information services provided in partnership with York Region Health and Community Services



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- Physical literacy for children in partnership with York Region District School Board, York Region Catholic District Board and the YMCA of Greater Toronto
- Volunteer services offered by Neighbourhood Network
- Artistic displays promoted by the York Region Arts Council

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