

TOWN PAGE

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Outdoor Skating Coming Soon!

During the stay-at-home emergency orders, I know it can be difficult to find activities for the whole family to stay fit and get outdoors. We want to provide opportunities for our residents to continue to be active, so I was most pleased when following a meeting between Premier Ford and Ontario Mayors last week, it was confirmed that outdoor skating and tobogganing are permitted to operate under the current restrictions.

Despite weather challenges, our staff team continue to work to prepare our two outdoor ice surfaces for public use. To ensure they can open we need consistent cold temperatures, which has been tricky over the last few weeks as we have hovered around 0°. Staff are hopeful that the two rinks in Mount Albert and Holland Landing will open this week!

In addition to having the ice surfaces ready for use, we must also implement safe use guidelines which will be in line with the current public health recommendations. These are being prepared and will likely include a pre-registration procedure to allow for a maximum number of users at one time. To stay up to date on the opening and pre-registration details be sure to visit our website and social media pages, as the information will be posted as soon as it is available.

In addition to ice skating to keep active we also have our wonderful walking trails which are being maintained for public access. Our Parks Team will be expanding our service levels to clear pathways throughout some of our major park systems to ensure that you have safe access to walk with your family.

I encourage everyone to enjoy the outdoors. As we continue in these difficult times it is important that we all act responsibly and do our part to eliminate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Together we can make a difference to help make tomorrow safer for everyone.

Please remember to be kind to one another!

Virginia Hackson

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

Highlights from the January 19 Council Meeting will be included in next week's Town Page.

Get Involved with Council Meetings!

 **Watch live at:**
<https://eastgwillimbury.civicweb.net/Portal/>

 **If you miss the meetings you can watch them at:**
<http://youtube.com/user/TownEastGwillimbury>

ONTARIO SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT - OPEN

Application intake is now open for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant. Eligible businesses can apply to receive funding between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to help with revenue losses resulting from the Provincewide Shutdown (effective December 26, 2020).

Submit your application at: ontario.ca/COVIDsupport

If you have any questions, please contact the Town's Economic Development Team at: ecdev@eastgwillimbury.ca

COUNCIL WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

From the January 12, 2021 Council Workshop

Active Transportation & Trails Workshop – Staff provided an update on the Town's trails network. Over the last 5 years, the Town has added over 30 KM of trails with the majority being paid for by development charges with no cost to the tax payer. The presentation outlined each community and the current and future proposed trails. Over the next year the Town will work on updating the trails master plan, which will include trail plans, safety signage and more. To see the full presentation visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/trails

Projects for Future Grant Funding – The Town provided an update to Council on projects that could be brought forward for future grant funding if it becomes available from the Provincial or Federal governments. Potential projects focus on Council priorities, and include the construction of new or expanded community facilities, expansion of servicing to employment lands, park redevelopment projects and road rehabilitation projects.

PROPOSED 2021 WATER & WASTEWATER BUDGET

At the January 19, Council meeting, Council considered the adoption of the 2021 Water/Wastewater Budget as shown below:

	2020/2021
Water	
• Delivery (Fixed)	\$70/quarter
• Usage (Variable) ≤105m ³	\$2.28 m ³
Wastewater	
• Delivery (Fixed)	\$70/quarter
• Usage (Variable)	\$2.19 m ³

An update on this Council meeting will be shared in the January 28, Town Page. For more information, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/budget

PUBLIC NOTICES

DO NOT USE STORMWATER PONDS FOR RECREATION

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Town are reminding residents not to use neighbourhood stormwater ponds for recreation activities.

It may look like a great place to have a game of pick-up hockey or a leisurely skate, but it is dangerous. These ponds have a specific job, and that's to continuously collect stormwater runoff from neighbourhoods.

This means they water flowing in and out of them all year long, making them an unsafe place to play. Temperature changes can cause major variations in ice thickness, while air pockets and water contaminants (salt from roads) can also weaken the ice. Please don't risk putting yourself in a dangerous and unpredictable situation.

METROLINX SERVICE REDUCTIONS

Starting January 23, GO Train service will be temporarily replaced with buses and reduced services on UP Express to make better use of resources while demand is low. Please visit www.gotransit.com for more details.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REMOVE HOLDING SYMBOL

APPLICANT: South Sharon Developments Inc. (Menkes)
FILE NUMBER: ZBA.20.07

Town Council will consider passing a by-law to remove a holding symbol at the February 2, 2021 Council Meeting for the purposes of constructing 8 single detached homes. The holding symbol is in place to restrict development until servicing is made available. York Region has provided additional servicing for the subject lands under the Sustainable Development Incentive Program. Please visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/townnotices to view the map. For more information contact Jack Smith at jack.smith@eastgwillimbury.ca or 905-478-4283 ext. 1252.

NEW! ONLINE WATER & TAX ACCOUNTS ARE COMING!

Residents can now register to access water and tax bills online via the Town's new online portal! This new safe and secure online portal will allow residents to view account balances, account transactions, and previous bills.

To set-up your account, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/onlineportal and use the 5-digit pin on your water or tax bills to login. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Customer Service at 905-478-4282 or customerservice@eastgwillimbury.ca

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

2021 interim property tax bills were mailed by January 18, 2021. Payments are due February 26 and April 30. Payments can be made at your bank, online/phone banking or through a pre-authorized payment plan.

SIMCOE TRAIL BRIDGE NOW OPEN

The Simcoe Trail Bridge has completed construction and is now open to the public, with some final touches to be done in the spring. It is safe for residents to use, however, please be cautious when using the trail and read all posted trail signs prior to using the trail systems.

WINTER IN-PERSON REGISTERED PROGRAMS CANCELLED

These cancellations have been put in place to align with the provincial lockdown orders. If you were registered for an in-person program, you will automatically receive a credit on your account for future Town programs. Information regarding additional virtual programs will be shared here, on our website and social media. Please email, Leisure1@eastgwillimbury.ca if you have any questions, or would prefer to process a refund instead of a credit.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

EG Food Pantry - January 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holland Landing Library.

Virtual Seniors Mobility Workshop - January 23 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Join Align Health Centre for a virtual workshop discussing fall prevention education, and exercises to keep seniors moving. To register, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/ireg using code 7316 or call 905-478-4282.