



Richmond Hill has also made exceptional efforts to preserve the historic beauty and economic vitality of its Downtown Core. Programs such as the Village Core Facade Assistance Program financially help business owners who renovate the fronts of their buildings to be in keeping with the Town's guidelines for building and facade restoration.



The Town has an extensive library system that offers a myriad of services including online information, video rentals and a specialized genealogical searching section.

The Town contains a diversity of beautiful and ecologically important natural features, including a section of the Oak Ridges Moraine, kettle lakes, tributaries of the Humber, Rouge and Don River systems and significant forests and wetlands. Close to 2,000 acres of public parks and open space protect these important natural features and provide recreational amenities for residents. The park inventory contains a diversity of different facilities from small neighbourhood playgrounds, to picturesque community parks like the newly renovated Mill Pond, and nature reserves like Phyllis Rawlinson Park and Briar Nine Reserve.

In 1998, the Town celebrated its 125th anniversary and many special events and programs marked the occasion including the creation of a special edition postal mark, an historical mural in the downtown area, a framboise fruit wine in conjunction with the local winery at Southbrook Farms, a commemorative garden and more.

VITAL STATISTICS

- 100 square kilometers in size
- 30 minute drive from downtown Toronto
- Centrally located in the GTA
- 1 of 9 area municipalities that comprise the Regional Municipality of York
- Current population is 170,549
- Population increased 68% from 1996 to 2006
- Projected population in 2026 is 219,000
- 5 fire stations
- 5 community pools, 123 athletic fields, 19 recreation facilities, 5 arenas
- Nearly 5,500 businesses
- 23 elementary and 7 secondary schools
- 4 community libraries

SPORTS AND RECREATION

A wide variety of recreation complexes are available in Richmond Hill, including The Wave Pool, a leisure facility complete with a water slide and four foot waves. Richmond Hill also has a large sports complex, called Richmond Green, which includes arenas, numerous baseball diamonds, indoor and outdoor soccer fields and an outdoor special event venue. The Rouge Woods Community Centre features indoor bocce facilities. A wide variety of recreational programs are available through the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department for people of all ages.

The Town currently has five public arenas offering hockey players and skaters a place to practice and have fun. These include one named after Olympic skating medalist Elvis Stojko, who lived and practised in Richmond Hill for many years.



OUR TOWN

Richmond Hill is a municipality that appreciates the richness of its heritage and the importance of preserving it, all the while continuing to grow and maintain a sense of community.

It's the spirit of its residents and their commitment to their Town that make Richmond Hill a special place to live, work and play.

For 24-hour access to information on programs, services and activities, visit www.richmondhill.ca.

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All About Richmond Hill

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Town of **RICHMOND HILL**
www.richmondhill.ca

LOOKING BACK

The Town of Richmond Hill started out as a small settlement. Its progress was closely linked with the development of Yonge Street, which was planned primarily as a military road by John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada.

The Town was officially incorporated as a Village on June 18, 1872 and the first Council Meeting was held on January 1, 1873 under the leadership of the Reeve, Abraham Law. Richmond Hill developed because of its proximity to the city, as farmers came into town on their way to Toronto markets and people traveled up and down Yonge Street to and from communities further north.

Early in the 20th Century, several large greenhouse operations were built in Richmond Hill and rose-growing turned the Town into the “Rose Capital” of Canada. In the 1920s, Village Council adopted the motto of the Duke of Richmond, for whom the Town may have been named. A local artist and carriage painter, William Ashford Wright, created a town crest to accompany the motto “En la rose fleuris,” which means “In the rose I flourish.”

Richmond Hill continued to grow and, in 1957, became a Town instead of a Village. Over the years, Richmond Hill has remained a distinctive community, changing rapidly while retaining its strong historical roots. Even during this current time of the most extensive growth to-date, it has remained a community with a friendly, down-to-earth flavour. That is why the Town has often been described as “a little north, a little nicer.”



THE BOTTOM LINE

Richmond Hill is serviced by three business parks that cover over 1,500 acres of designated business lands, where you will find high tech manufacturers, corporate head offices, distribution/warehousing operations, wholesale/retail trade and a burgeoning service sector. Richmond Hill consists of nearly 5,500 businesses and is strongly represented by firms in several key industry sectors, including Printing and Publishing; Information Technology; Financial Services; Computer Hardware Manufacturing; and the Automotive Parts Industry. Future sectors of growth include Environmental Services and Technology; Telecommunications; and Biotechnology/Healthcare. Many of Richmond Hill’s largest employers are found in these industry sectors.

Richmond Hill’s Top Employers

Company	Product or Service	Employees
York Central Hospital	Full-Care Medical Facility	960
Apotex Inc.	Pharmaceutical Products	800
Bulk Barn Foods Inc.	Bulk Food Retailer	600
Town of Richmond Hill	Municipal Government	535
Compugen Systems Ltd.	Computer Systems Integrator	525
Microtec Securi-T Inc.	Security Systems	503
Inmet	Automotive Part Manufacturers	500
Loblaws	Grocery Store	500
Ronalds (Quebecor)	Printing & Publishing	500
Alert Care Corp.	Retirement Living	400
Sheraton Parkway North	Hotel & Conference Centre	400
Hamel Davidson Corp.	Electronics R&D	340
Acklands Grainger Inc.	MRO Product Distributor	300
Rogers Cable	National Communications Company	300
Gamma Foundries Co.	Aluminum, Bronze & Copper Castings	250
Royal LePage	Real Estate Broker	250

Source: Richmond Hill Business Directory, 2006 (full-time staff)



The Richmond Hill economy has remained stable. A notable portion of Richmond Hill’s economic growth during this period can be attributed to significant development in the residential and commercial/retail sectors. Richmond Hill looks forward to welcoming a number of prestigious head offices.

The Town has earned a reputation for responsible and sound fiscal management. The Town has shown itself year after year to be an ideal place to live, work and own a business, because it offers one of the lowest tax rates in the GTA and delivers high quality and cost-effective services.



EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Excellent educational services are offered at the elementary and secondary school level.

Numerous universities and colleges are easily accessible from Richmond Hill.

The David Dunlap Observatory (famous for the discovery of the black hole) is a science complex, as well as a tourist attraction.

Richmond Hill has a thriving arts and crafts community, including a local theatre group, *The Curtain Club*, as well as many other artisans and craft creators. A new state-of-the-art performing arts theatre is currently being built. The *Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts* will be the largest cultural facility of its kind in York Region. Located at Yonge and Wright Streets in the heart of Richmond Hill’s downtown core, the 43,000 square foot multi-use cultural facility is scheduled to open in fall 2008.



HISTORICAL ROOTS

Another active group is the Historical Society. Richmond Hill is rich in historical character with buildings from as early as 1824 and has an old Village Core. The local architecture reflects the Loyalist, British and Pennsylvania-German backgrounds of the area’s founding families. The Municipality owns several historically designated properties that are maintained for public use, ranging from an 1830’s settler’s log house to the Town’s first railway station, built in 1906.

In 1997 the Town officially opened the Richmond Hill Heritage Centre. The Centre showcases artifacts and memorabilia that document Richmond Hill’s rich and colourful past.



The Town’s environmental education program - *Walks on the Wild Side* - was designed to teach people about the natural and cultural heritage, which can be experienced via

the Town’s trail system. It features information about various important heritage areas in Richmond Hill. The McGraw archeological site, for example is an Iroquois settlement dating back to 1400-1450 A.D. located near the Elgin West Community Centre in Twickenham Park. See also *Museum of the Streets* program.