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**Mayor Van Bynen
Chamber Address – April 20, 2018**

Good afternoon Chair Joshua Campbell, President and CEO Debra Scott and valued Chamber members and guests.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank and acknowledge Debra Scott for her passion, dedication and leadership as the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce President, since 2005. With Debra at the helm, our Chamber has grown from a small team of two, to one of the largest Chambers in York Region. Debra has been a huge part of the Chamber and our collaborative partnerships. We all wish her well on her upcoming retirement.

Congratulations Debra and all the best in many happy years ahead!

Firstly, I would like to welcome some special guests -
our MPP Chris Ballard,
Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson,
Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe and colleagues.
Thank you for joining us today.



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I would also like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors;

- Bell
- XE.COM
- VivaNext, and
- Magna International

Welcome as well to Southlake Regional Health Centre's new CEO Arden Crystal and Susan Mullin, President and CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. Southlake continues to be one of our most significant community partners.

And of course I **can not** forget to welcome my very supportive family - my lovely wife Roxanne and our daughters Christine & her husband Tim; and Michelle & her husband Jeff.

As you likely know, this is my last Chamber of Commerce address as your Mayor – a role that has brought me much gratitude, fulfillment and pride. Throughout many years on Newmarket Council, I have truly witnessed the transformation of this community.

I will begin with a short walk down memory lane and share some of our most memorable moments over the last two decades.



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Some of our major milestones include the purchase of the Stickwood-Walker farm, which saw:

- the development of the Magna Centre
- Canada's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Subdivision,
- Much-needed affordable housing
- The creation of community gardens and more.

We have completely renewed our Main Street, welcoming 11 new restaurants to our downtown in the past five years.

We have seen the creation of Newmarket's Riverwalk Commons, our Farmer's Market;

Jazz Festival;

Hollis Wealth Story Pod; and the **renaissance** renovation of our Old Town Hall, providing important gathering spaces that will serve our community long into the future.

We built an award winning Consolidated Operations Centre with the capacity to serve our community well into the future.

We have seen our community support important projects like Belinda's Place, and the Margaret Bahen Hospice.



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We have beautified our community through public art installations like the nature-inspired totems along the Tom Taylor Trail and the bronzed plaques on the Keith Bridge. Both of these works of art pay tribute to our history and heritage and were made possible through collaborative sponsorships.

We have seen a total transformation of Davis Drive, where rapid transit is now a reality.

We have come together to celebrate historic events like Canada's 150th birthday and bid farewell to one of the country's most beloved musicians, Gord Downey of the Tragically Hip.

We watched with pride as the Olympic torch burned bright and traveled through Newmarket on its way to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

We have cheered on our hometown heroes like Gabby Daleman and Connor McDavid and many other local talents.

We also created the Newmarket Sports Hall of Fame as a way to honour the town's greatest athletes and sports builders.

We welcomed Hometown Hockey, paying tribute to Canada's national game and uniting us with our fellow Canadians across this great country.

Together we have witnessed our community grow and flourish.

At times, difficult decisions had to be made to balance the needs of the present with our long-term vision to be *well* beyond the ordinary. These decisions were made with forethought and the capacity to accommodate future generations.



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Our goal has always been and continues to be - setting the stage for an extraordinary future. That brings us to today, where I would like to shift my focus to some of our more recent achievements.

In 2017, local talent, The Elwins, released their *Beauty Community* album as a tribute to their hometown Newmarket, Ontario. So what is it that makes Newmarket a 'Beauty Community'?

A few highlights include; affordable housing, state-of-the art healthcare, lush environmental havens and top-notch recreation programs.

- Newmarket has the fourth lowest tax levy per capita in York Region and we continue to have below average taxes when compared to our neighbours in the GTHA and throughout Ontario.
- We have almost 50 kilometres of walking and biking trails and host hundreds of special events and festivals each year.
- We have 2,400 employers and 41,000 jobs – the highest number of jobs in Newmarket's history. For a community with a population of 88,000 people that is enviable.
- Best Main Street in Canada, One of the best Places to live in Canada and one of the country's most romantic communities are all titles Newmarket has been proud to wear.



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So really the question is –“What’s not to love about Newmarket?”

If I had to put my finger on what it is that makes Newmarket ‘special’ - I would say what sets us apart is our unwavering sense of community. This was validated recently when we conducted some key word research and the word ‘community’ was unique to Newmarket in comparison to other municipalities of similar size and characteristics.

Beyond roads, buildings and infrastructure, it is what lies beneath the surface, the things you cannot see that truly captures the essence of a community.

This is what makes us special.

Over the years, we have created many spaces that provide the venues for culture and recreation to flourish and for us to connect with our community and each other.

The reopening of Old Town Hall was a significant milestone in the Town’s Cultural Master Plan. The ‘new’ Old Town Hall has become a place that inspires imagination and cultivates creativity.

As part of the **Canada 150** recognition, the Town was proud to unveil its Canada 150 Mosaic –as a tribute to the Old Town Hall - one of our most significant historical landmarks. This work of art includes 576 tiles painted by members of the community. The cultural mosaic will act as a time capsule, with each tile telling a different story of our town and our country.

The Old Town Hall has hosted hundreds of events since reopening in 2016, including Newmarket’s first national 10-minute play festival. The festival

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featured plays written by Canadians living around the world - from Mexico to China.

It inspired a collaboration of local restaurants and cafes to get involved by offering special rates for festival goers. This is the kind of ripple effect that will help Newmarket continue to succeed.

Last summer, Newmarket had the pleasure of hosting the York Region Pride Parade. Together, we celebrated our true colours as large crowds lined our streets to celebrate our diversity and inclusivity. And we are proud to once again host this uplifting event, in 2018.

As well in 2017, we unveiled a very significant public art display on the Keith Bridge. Eight bronzed plaques tell the story of the history of transportation in Newmarket, dating back 10,000 years.

This is the perfect example of how art can enhance our public spaces.

Earlier this year, the Town was very excited to share the news that we have entered into an agreement for the purchase of the Mulock Estate at the north-west corner of Mulock Drive and Yonge Street. Our vision for this property is to create a Central-Park inspired green space. This is a key location within our urban centres and will provide much-needed recreation and activity space in an area of town that will be our second most densely-developed area at full build out. We look forward to continued consultation with the community in 2018 to help shape our vision for this property. We expect this iconic green space to be ready for community use in late 2019/early 2020.



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Newmarket continues to build on our reputation as being a leader in innovation and technology.

Last year, we announced that Newmarket was chosen as the new home of Celestica's Toronto Manufacturing Operations. Celestica is a global leader in design, manufacturing and supply chain solutions for the world's most innovative companies. This was a very competitive year-long bid in which the Town collaborated with various partners to demonstrate why Newmarket is the ideal location. Access to a talented and skilled workforce, reliable hydro, below-average taxes, proximity to major highways and easy access to transit are just some of the reasons why Newmarket was the best choice for this thriving global business. This will see the relocation of approximately 500- 800 plus jobs to our area.

We were also very pleased to welcome Gin-Cor to Town. It is one of **Canada's Profit 500** fastest growing companies, whose staff has grown from 40 people to almost 500 across Canada. Gin-Cor is another significant addition to Newmarket's business network, that will bring in the range of more than 200 jobs to our community

In Newmarket, we are always looking for new ways to use technology to improve our public spaces and our quality of life.

The expansion of our Soofa bench network demonstrates our leadership in innovative technologies. Soofa benches charge mobile devices using solar power, while also gathering valuable analytics without infringing on privacy.

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The data collected will allow us to better monitor how our public spaces are being used and inform future plans. Newmarket is the first town in Canada to join the Soofa Beta network putting us in the company of cities like New York, Boston and LA.

What we are doing is currently being contemplated for the waterfront in Toronto. (Perhaps to a different scale) but it's good to see they are following our lead. This is a big step forward towards Newmarket being recognized as a Smart City and also combines our strong commitment to being environmentally-friendly. Newmarket continues to be one of the strongest advocates for ultra-high-speed broadband. This is no longer a nice to have, it is **an absolute necessity** to remain competitive in today's technology driven economy.

Newmarket has continued to approach this with a sense of urgency. As a result of our advocacy at the Regional, Provincial and National level, we are continuing to make significant progress in this area. I am happy to tell you that York Region's YTN Telecom Network was incorporated and began operations this year with over 200 KM of Dark Fiber to advance access to affordable, reliable scalable broadband across the Region. As the Chair of the Board of Directors for YorkNet, I am very excited to see this move forward and the impact it will have across the Region. In Newmarket, this has been a long journey as we continue to work towards our own solutions for our community.



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We have also continued our commitment to green initiatives, including the announcement of electric buses coming to Newmarket.

We heard earlier this week that 6 new electric buses are expected to arrive in early 2019. Our Hydro company is the first utility in Ontario to actively support electric buses. They formed a forward-thinking partnership with York Region and the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) to help bring electric buses and an electric charging station to the GO Bus terminal in Newmarket. NT Power will build and maintain an **overhead** on-route charging station which was a key driver in moving this project forward.

Recent updates to Town facilities, roads and parks include Low Impact Development (LID) to help minimize the adverse effects of stormwater on the environment.

Lions Park is just one example of our leading-edge stormwater and climate change initiatives. The recent reconstruction of this park included new LID features to improve drainage, reduce flooding and create recreational space where it did not exist before. This work was carried out in collaboration with a number of partners including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, York Region's Greening Partnership Action Fund, Dufferin Simcoe Land Stewardship Network, and the Newmarket Lion's Club. This was also made



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possible through \$250,000 in funding from our Conservation authority and Environment Canada.

For many years I have shared our vision of ‘Renewing Newmarket.’ This has always been about transforming an already extraordinary community and making it *even* better.

We have taken huge steps forward in this renewal, particularly in our Yonge Street and Davis Drive urban corridors. Many major milestones were achieved in 2017.

We welcomed our first purpose-built rental apartments at 212 Davis Drive, providing much-needed rental options for our growing population. This is the first building of its kind in York Region in more than 30 years. This was a collaborative effort between the Town of Newmarket, the Region of York and the developer. And the business model is being considered as a template to enable many other much needed projects like this.

We were also very excited to hear the official announcement of the Stratus Centre, coming to 514 Davis Drive. This mixed-use office and retail facility will showcase a modern, future-focused design. It will lead the way in healthy, sustainable workplaces and has the potential to accommodate up to 500 ‘new’ jobs in Newmarket. Again this “First” model will form a template for other projects across the GTA

Other developments that are proposed in our Yonge Street and Davis Drive corridors include;



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- Redwood development at Yonge and Davis (formerly known as Slessor Square) – includes three towers and 530 units.
- 175 Deerfield Rd. (near Davis & Longford)- with close to 500 units
- And Condos at Yonge and Millard – includes 360 units

We are also having early discussions for potential development at Davis Drive and Patterson in the same scale which would include both rental & condominium units.

The Viva Rapid Transit system has completely transformed public transit in Newmarket and provided a much-needed rejuvenation of Davis Drive. Since the Viva line has started on Davis in late 2015, there has been a 62 per cent increase in overall ridership, a 33 per cent travel time savings and 60 per cent reduction in vehicle and pedestrian collisions. This transformation has turned the corner onto Yonge Street where construction progress continues for completion in late 2019. The Davis Drive and Yonge Street rapidways represent a \$473 million total investment in our community.



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As well, significant steps have been taken over the past year on the construction of the York Region Administrative Annex. This 422, 000 square-foot facility will provide residents with better access to community, health and court services in one central location and York Region will be contributing a significant public art piece to the site. This project will definitely be a catalyst that spurs continued economic development opportunities in the Yonge Street corridor.

York Region's population is expected to grow by 68 per cent over the next 25 years.

Newmarket's Davis Drive & Yonge Street Secondary Plan sets out intensification targets of 33,000 jobs and 32,000 people in our urban centres over the next few decades.

We have been actively marketing the redevelopment of our corridors to attract additional investment and businesses in these areas. Many of the images you see in this presentation are all part of this exciting campaign.

I encourage you to follow the Town's new blog - **where work meets play.com** which highlights interesting stories and businesses to showcase the attractiveness of living and working in Newmarket.



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As part of our growth plans, we will be embarking on a **new** Secondary Plan along Mulock Drive. This will support the business case for the new GO Train Station to be located near Mulock Drive & Bayview Avenue. We are working closely with Metrolinx to provide our residents with more connections and better service to meet the demands of our growing population. This means more connections to the entire GO network, working towards 30-minute rush hour service two-way and expanded weekend train service.

In 2018, significant updates and improvements will begin at the **Tannery** GO station, which will act as the mobility hub for Newmarket. At the same time design & layout plans will also continue to move forward for the GO station on Mulock Drive.

Recently over 100 residents came out to hear more about the plans for the Mulock Station and we look forward to continuing to work with Metrolinx, residents and partners on the vision for the new station.

We are also very happy to be moving forward with two new proposed hotels in Newmarket. We expect to see the groundbreaking for the Town Suites by Marriott at the corner of Journey's End Circle and Harry Walker

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Parkway this year. And, just down the road on Harry Walker Parkway, we expect to receive a site plan for a five-star hotel and conference centre shortly.

These additional facilities will greatly increase our tourism potential and make Newmarket an even more appealing location for large events and new businesses.

Newmarket has built a reputation as being a community with a collaborative culture. This approach continues to help us achieve our goals with the help of many important partners.

The Chamber of Commerce has certainly been an integral partner for many years. We have collaborated on many forward-thinking projects like Smart Commute Central York, the Shared Digital Infrastructure initiative, and now the Smart City Council. The Smart City Council brings together an inclusive group of partners to enable innovation and growth.

This includes the

- Newmarket Chamber of Commerce,
- Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution,
- Newmarket Public Library,
- Southlake Regional Health Centre,



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This includes the

- Newmarket Chamber of Commerce,
- Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution,
- Newmarket Public Library,
- Southlake Regional Health Centre,
- IBM and
- Cisco to name just some of the partners.

This group continues to take steps forward and is now working with a consultant to assist in the development of a Smart City framework.

A preliminary brainstorming session was held to define possible solutions that would benefit our community; including discussion on how to tap into the expertise and enthusiasm of others and how can we best collaboratively build Newmarket as a Smart City.

Stay tuned for more information on this exciting initiative.

Many of you will remember the old York County hospital, a modest community hospital that has now grown into Southlake Regional Health Centre – one of the most progressive health facilities in the country.

From 2016-2017, 2,589 babies were born at Southlake – that is about 7 babies every day. There were over 500,000 out-patient treatments and more than 100,000 emergency department patient visits.



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One of our earlier partnerships with Southlake saw the creation of CreateIT Now – a launching pad for great ideas and health-care focused innovators getting into North American markets. And in June, one of our more recent partnerships with Southlake will begin.

The Cardiac Rehab program will relocate to the Magna Centre to benefit from the existing walking track and our new fitness facility as we share roles in delivering wellness to our community.

We are very fortunate to have world-class healthcare at our doorstep and to have Southlake as one of our longstanding partners.

Another very important partnership is with our local Hydro company – Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution, under the very capable leadership of Paul Ferguson. Over the past 10 years we have seen them successfully merge with Tay Power. More recently they have entered into an agreement to purchase Midland Power Utility Corp. This purchase is currently awaiting Ontario Energy Board review and approval.

They have also been at the forefront of conservation demand management, again in a partnership with a number of other utilities across Ontario.

We also continue to work with and support the **makerspace movement** and our local NewMakelt startup venture. A good example of this collaboration is the recent addition of an indoor garden to our Municipal Offices where we partnered with NewMakelt on the construction of the structure.



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Together we are helping to raise awareness around global food challenges and the importance of eating local.

In Newmarket, we really do live and breathe the ‘better together’ philosophy and it begins with the collaborative working relationship between Council and staff.

All of the projects and programs we have seen come to life over the past several years and all of the exciting opportunities ahead of us are a result of the teamwork and dedication of our partners, staff and Council.

I want to take this opportunity to formally introduce and acknowledge my colleagues on Council, whose tireless efforts and vision has helped to shape the Newmarket that we all know and love.

Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor John Taylor and
Ward Councillors:

- Tom Vegh
- Dave Kerwin
- Tom Hempen
- Bob Kwapis
- Kelly Broome
- and Christina Bisanz



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We are fortunate to be supported by a talented staff team led by

- CAO, Bob Shelton, **AND**
- Commissioner
- Peter Noehammer

Many members of senior staff are also joining us today and I thank all of you for being here and for your continued hard work in helping to turn the strategic priorities of Council from vision to reality.

We share these many successes with you – our business leaders and valued partners.

We are building our community together.

I am so proud to have represented this community as a Councillor and Mayor for the past 18 years. Together, we have watched Newmarket blossom into **the** thriving, vibrant place that it is today. We have created a delicate balance of old and new, history and heritage, past, present and future.

Much of what I have highlighted today has been about change and we need only to look around to see all of the positive changes in this special Town that we are proud to call home.

But what I would like to leave you with today as well is what remains **UN**changed.

As we have continued to grow and develop, our values continue to be rooted in our Quaker past.



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We are guided by values like trust, integrity, respect and a sense of community. While Newmarket continues to be shaped by increasingly urban elements, we remain a place where you know your neighbours names.

My own Dutch heritage is rooted in strong family traditions.

To me, Newmarket **has always** and **will always** feel like family.

Thank you.