





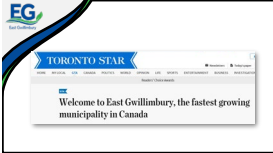
Image/Visual	Speaking notes
 The image shows a banner for 'EG Chamber Breakfast' featuring the East Gwillimbury logo and a photograph of a garden with orange flowers and a wooden bridge. Text on the banner includes 'EG Chamber Breakfast', 'Mayor Virginia Hackson', and 'December 7, 2022'.	<p>Good morning – Members of the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce, members of East Gwillimbury Council, MPP, MP, and guests.</p>
 The image shows a banner for 'Land Acknowledgment' featuring the East Gwillimbury logo and two photographs: one of an orange flag and another of a group of people in a natural setting. Text on the banner includes 'EG' and 'Land Acknowledgment'.	<p>I'd like to begin with a land acknowledgement.</p> <p>The Town of East Gwillimbury recognizes and acknowledges the lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land.</p>

<b>Image/Visual</b>	<b>Speaking notes</b>
	<p>We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as EG's closest First Nation community and recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands, and we join them in these responsibilities.</p>

Image/Visual	Speaking notes
	<p>On behalf of East Gwillimbury Council – It is my pleasure to be here with you today to provide the annual state of the Town address to the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>I'd like to start by introducing members of East Gwillimbury Council:</p> <p>From Ward 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councillor Lorelea Carruthers</li><li>○ Councillor Terry Foster</li></ul>

<b>Image/Visual</b>	<b>Speaking notes</b>
	<p>From Ward 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councillor Brian Johns</li><li>○ Councillor Tara Roy-DiClemente</li></ul> <p>From Ward 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Councillor Scott Crone</li><li>○ Councillor Susan Lahey</li></ul> <p>Thank you for being here today.</p>

Image/Visual	Speaking notes
 The logo for the 2022 East Gwillimbury election. It features the letters 'EG' in a blue box at the top left. Below it, the text 'East Gwillimbury' is written in blue, followed by '2022' in green. The word 'VOTES' is written in large green letters, with a blue checkmark inside a white box to its right.	<p>Two months ago, we were all in campaign mode hoping to be elected to represent the residents of East Gwillimbury for the next four years.</p> <p>I had numerous conversations with our voters about the past four years and their hopes for the future of EG.</p> <p>Hearing directly from residents about how we're doing and what matters to them is extremely important.</p>

<b>Image/Visual</b>	<b>Speaking notes</b>
	<p>It allows us to gauge what we're doing right and areas where we still have work to do.</p>
	<p>Our community is experiencing growth at a rapid rate and I'm proud of the work we've done to ensure residents can still enjoy the amenities they rely on each day while planning for the future of our Town.</p> <p>Earlier this year, East Gwillimbury was recognized as Canada's fastest-growing municipality as part of the 2021 Census.</p>

<b>Image/Visual</b>	<b>Speaking notes</b>
	<p>From 2016 to 2021, the town experienced a 44% increase in population.</p> <p>And we are projected to grow from about 36,000 residents today to 127,000 people and 44,000 jobs by 2051.</p> <p>With this growth comes the responsibility to make sure that we have a livable community where everyone feels they belong.</p>



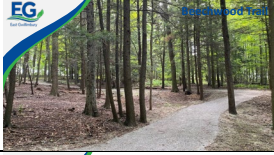



I'm proud of our accomplishments at community building – particularly over the past several years.

This year alone we celebrated the official opening of our Operations Centre on Woodbine Avenue.

This 57,000 square foot facility now supports our roads, water, and parks operations.





	<p>The project was completed within the \$18.5 million budget, on time during the pandemic and was funded entirely through development charges with no cost to the taxpayer for design and construction.</p>
 <p>Vista Hills Park</p>	<p>We also opened 11 new parks and trails, such as the Vista Hills Park,</p>
 <p>Children of Peace Park</p>	<p>the Children of Peace Park,</p>
 <p>Beechwood Trail</p>	<p>the Beechwood Trail,</p>
 <p>Oriole Bridge Boardwalk and Trail</p>	<p>And the Oriole Bridge Boardwalk and Trail.</p>




We introduced new voting methods, broke ground on major Town projects, returned to traditional in-person events and programs and launched many new online self-serve options for residents.

These accomplishments are only the beginning.

Today, I will speak about the future of our community, provide updates on Town projects and touch on areas where we still have work to do.



 <p>The collage includes the EG logo, a photo of a construction site with a crane, a photo of a group of people at a ceremony, and a photo of a large building under construction.</p>	<p>One of the projects I know many of you are looking forward to is the completion of the Health and Active Living Plaza.</p> <p>Construction began in October with an official groundbreaking ceremony at the facility site.</p>
 <p>The collage includes the EG logo, a photo of the interior of a modern building, a photo of the exterior of the building, and a photo of a large open space.</p>	<p>The 80,000-square-foot facility is the largest capital project in our Town's history and will be home to many community services and a new library with maker space, sound recording studio, meeting rooms, and flexible program spaces.</p>


	<p>The Health and Active Living Plaza will also feature a gymnasium with a walking track, sound studio, our first and long-awaited aquatics centre, and much more.</p>
	<p>The journey to developing the Health and Active Living Plaza started when Council approved the concept as part of the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. At that time, it was envisioned that a complex of this type would be needed when the population reached 40,000.</p>



As we get closer to that number, we have a responsibility to provide services and amenities for our residents to enjoy.

We're not doing this alone. The 16-acre property was conveyed to the Town in 2016 from the Queensville Properties group of developers at no cost to the taxpayer.

Through the design process, we worked with user groups and the community, through more than 50 public engagement sessions, to design the facility and park spaces.



 <p>The image shows two architectural renderings of the Health and Active Living Plaza. The left rendering is a perspective view of the building's footprint, and the right rendering is a top-down view of the same footprint. The logo for East Gwillimbury (EG) is in the top left, and the text 'Health and Active Living Plaza' is in the top right.</p>	<p>And this year, the symbol for the Health and Active Living Plaza was designed in collaboration with a local artist. As you can see from the image, it's actually the footprint of the building on an angle.</p> <p>Updates and significant milestones will be shared throughout the project, so I encourage you all to please stay tuned.</p>
 <p>The image shows a construction site for the Woodbine One project. On the left is a rendering of the modern building, and on the right is a photograph of the construction site with workers and equipment. The logo for East Gwillimbury (EG) is in the top left, and the text 'Woodbine One' is in the top right.</p>	<p>Another major project that broke ground this year is the Loblaw Companies Limited and Choice Properties REIT's advanced logistics and distribution centre.</p>

	<p>Located along Woodbine Ave., this project will bring 1,000 new jobs to our community, generate \$500,000 in municipal taxes annually, and collect \$7 million in development charges, which will fund the construction of new roads, water and sewer infrastructure and facilities in East Gwillimbury.</p>
	<p>Supporting local businesses continues to be a priority and is key to building complete communities. That's why we launched Business Advantage and continue to work with new and existing businesses throughout our community.</p>


 <p>The collage consists of four small photographs. The top-left photo shows a group of people at a business event with the 'EG' logo. The top-right photo shows a storefront with the sign 'Advantage EG'. The bottom-left photo shows a storefront with the sign 'NINJA'S'. The bottom-right photo shows a storefront with the sign 'Advantage EG'.</p>	<p>Over the past two years we welcomed 24 new businesses to East Gwillimbury.</p> <p>And in the spirit of building complete communities, just last week, we issued the building permit for the new Sharon Public School on Murrell Boulevard.</p>
 <p>The graphic features a man and a woman smiling. The text 'ySpace Entrepreneurship Hub' is prominently displayed in the center. Logos for 'EG', 'YORK U', and 'Advantage EG' are visible at the bottom.</p>	<p>Our efforts to support new and emerging businesses was also enhanced this year with the launch of a Business Incubator and Accelerator project.</p>



	<p>Together with the Town of Georgina and York University's YSpace, this project supports entrepreneurs and economic growth.</p> <p>Participants have access to resources like mentorship, networks, and collaboration workspaces.</p> <p>The Program includes idea consultations, and a business plan bootcamp. In 2023 it will also include a digital skills program.</p> <p>To date, there have been 241 participants from East Gwillimbury, Georgina and surrounding communities.</p>
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	<p>While establishing and supporting economic development programs it is also important that we measure what we do. Through our 2021 Business Retention and Expansion Survey – we learned that there is a 96% business satisfaction rate.</p>
	<p>As we approach the holiday season, you may also want to make a visit to the Niemi Family Farm Christmas Market where vendors from across our region are selling holiday-themed treats and handmade goods.</p>

	<p>Shopping local is something I always advocate for – and this year is no different. I encourage everyone to shop local and support local businesses.</p>
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 The image shows the logo for East Gwillimbury (EG) in the top left corner, featuring the letters 'EG' in blue and green. Below the logo is a photograph of three small green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark brown soil. The background of the photo is a soft, out-of-focus green.	<p>The common theme over the last four years has been growth. While growth can be challenging, and often seem daunting, it creates new opportunities for enhanced programs, development, attraction, and investment right in our community.</p>
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## How do we manage growth?

Earlier this year we adopted our Updated Official Plan, which sets the vision and policy framework to guide growth and development in EG to the year 2051.

The Updated OP also guides where future parks, trails, employment, housing, roads, and many other services and amenities will be located.

It also sets out our plan to stay green. We're proud of the parks, forests, trails and other green space throughout EG. And even when the town reaches its fullest growth – we will remain about 83% green.

Over the next term of Council – we will continue to focus on the Environment. To do this we will promote and support Environmental programs at the corporate, community and regional level, including the development of an environmental strategy, climate action plan, and updated community energy plan.

	<p>As we begin a new term, our first major task on Council will be to update the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The plan is made up of four strategic priorities with corresponding actions to ensure decisions made throughout the term meet the needs of our residents, businesses, and community.</p> <p>EG's Strategic Plan will guide our decisions and actions over the Council term.</p>
	<p>The progress we've made as a municipality is truly remarkable, we've accomplished a lot and brought a great deal of new and innovative</p>

programs and services to our growing community.

Where does East Gwillimbury go from here?

We roll up our sleeves and get to work to build new facilities, support economic growth, build new infrastructure, and continue to provide high-quality programs and services for you, our residents and business owners.



A key aspect of planning for the future is having the right infrastructure in place to support growth.

There are two pieces of legislation that will impact this work: the Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Act and the More Homes Built Faster Act.

I'll start with the Support Growth and Housing in York and Durham Act.

This Act determines the sewage solution for our community. For years, we have advocated for the Upper York Sewage Solution. However, in



October, the province determined that it will support the York Durham Sewage Solution which will have wastewater going to the Duffin Creek plant in Pickering.


The one thing that I know for sure – is that a solution is overdue and is needed to address sewage capacity for our growing population.

This Act is a step in the right direction towards accommodating the growth that is planned for East Gwillimbury for the next thirty years.


With this legislation we are also anticipating that the lagoons will be decommissioned as a priority.

While I welcome the decision about the sewage solution, we need to work with York Region, the province, and other partners to determine how the solution will be implemented and to ensure a plan becomes a reality.

As Canada's fastest-growing municipality we have a voice and need to have a seat at the decision table.

	<p>The second piece of legislation is the More Homes Built Faster Act.</p> <p>In fact – this is the legislation that enables the Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Act.</p> <p>While the decisions about sewage infrastructure will support our growth, the More Homes Built Faster Act – or Bill 23 – will have a devastating financial impact on our municipality.</p>
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	<p>Among a number of measures, this legislation brings sweeping changes to the amount of development charges a municipality can collect.</p> <p>East Gwillimbury anticipates that the Act could require the municipality to more than double property taxes to account for the decrease in development charges revenue that the legislation enables.</p> <p>As a result, the Town projects a reduction in revenue from development charges of between \$20M and \$50M over the next 10 years.</p>
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	<p>This represents an overall decrease in revenues of about 30%.</p> <p>Development charges pay for the roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, parks, trails, sidewalks, and all of the elements needed to have a complete community.</p>
 The image shows the logo for East Gwillimbury (EG) on the left, which consists of the letters 'EG' in blue and green. To the right of the logo is a photograph of a building's wooden frame under construction, showing the skeletal structure of the walls and roof.	<p>And, while we support the need to increase the housing supply – we're proof that it can be done without impacting the financial position of municipalities. With our significant population growth over the last census period, we processed more than 3000 building permits.</p>



We're also supporting diverse and affordable housing options that are part of building complete communities and so we continue to work with stakeholders who build housing for seniors, and for those with lower incomes.

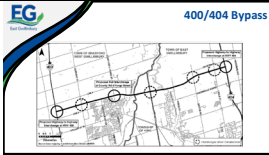
Revera retirement home is a 206-unit retirement building and Passage House is an 18-unit transitional housing development that Housing York and Blue Door are building.

Along with hundreds of other municipalities, we are submitting our comments about the More Homes Built Faster legislation – however, I was disappointed to find that the legislation was passed on November 28 – even though the commenting period extends to December 9.

We have a community that is growing, that is diverse, and that deserves to have the amenities needed for families to thrive.

	<p>We are working towards the future of our community in a responsible way by planning infrastructure replacement and new construction with the 10-year Capital Plan.</p> <p>This will support how we pay for assets and infrastructure including water and wastewater, roads, bridges, sidewalks, streetlights, stormwater system, and fleet.</p> <p>The decisions made in the Ontario Legislature last week means that we will need to revisit how we pay to build or replace new infrastructure.</p>
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On the topic of infrastructure, I am pleased that another key project is moving forward.

I'm talking about the 400/404 Bradford Bypass which will provide the much-needed road network to connect our community.

In April, the Ontario government awarded a contract to design and build a bridge crossing for the Bradford Bypass and the start of construction was just announced in November.

It is so important for us to build communities that are safe and where traffic is not congested.

	<p>Connecting the 400 and 404 highways is an investment that will connect communities, reduce gridlock, and grow our economy.</p>
 <p>The graphic features the 'EG' logo for East Gwillimbury on the left. To its right, the text 'Revitalization Projects' is centered above two small images. The left image is titled 'Downtown Mount Albert Revitalization' and shows a street scene with a car and a person on a bicycle. The right image is titled 'Young Street Revitalization' and shows a street intersection with a crosswalk and a person walking.</p>	<p>Growing our economy is also about creating streetscapes and environments that are conducive for walkable communities, accessible, and that foster a sense of pride.</p> <p>This is the foundation behind the Mount Albert and Holland Landing Revitalization projects.</p>

In Mount Albert, we began this process in 2014 when we sought community input on the future of the area.

It's important to recognize that this was the idea generation phase – and the “shovels in the ground” phase – needed funding.

Thankfully, Team EG was able to apply for a secure grant funding from the province in 2020 – and that's what's moving this project head.

Our focus is on the central business district and the roadwork for which the funding will apply.

We will be coming back to the community for feedback on design – and road construction is slated to begin in 2024 or earlier depending on the feedback received.

This process takes time. It isn't about paving over an existing road. It's about making sure the pipes and other infrastructure are in place and that we work with the community along the way.

Economic and streetscape revitalization go hand in hand. So, as we develop these projects – we will also explore how we can support businesses in these areas to thrive.



In addition to our work on the physical spaces within EG, we need to make sure that our community welcomes, celebrates, and embraces diversity.

We have new residents from various backgrounds and it's our duty to ensure that as we grow, we build a diverse and inclusive community that celebrates its diverse population.



Last year, the Town adopted an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion framework, which guides our journey to building an inclusive community.



We made significant progress as a municipality with the installation of a Pride Crosswalk and Land Acknowledgement Plaque at the Town Office, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events, Signature Planter unveiling at Nokiidaa Trail, and community flag raisings.

In the spirit of “nothing about us, without us” – together with the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee of Council and the East Gwillimbury Public Library, we continue to work collaboratively with the community on several initiatives to recognize Black History Month,

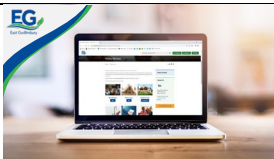
	<p>Pride Month, and to honour Indigenous Communities.</p> <p>Improving access to Town services is part of this work.</p> <p>This year the East Gwillimbury Public Library permanently removed fines for overdue items with a view to create a barrier-free and inclusive library where everyone can learn and participate.</p>
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In addition to embracing diversity in our spaces, we're also embracing new ways of doing business.

Our experiences during the COVID pandemic accelerated our adoption of technology.

The pandemic allowed us to evaluate how we work and find digital solutions to connect residents to Town programs and services.



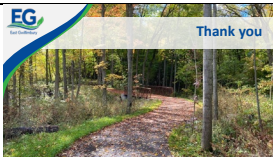
I'm happy to share that we have a variety of digital platforms to make conducting Town business easy.



	<p>Residents can now purchase fire permits and dog licences online, apply for a marriage license, pay their water, and tax bills and more. Information on our online services is available on the Town website.</p> <p>On the library’s website, you can sign up for a library card and gain access to thousands of digital books, audiobooks, and stream movies.</p> <p>Through these initiatives – we are demonstrating our modernization efforts through driving innovation, improving programs, and reducing costs.</p>
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Within our Emergency and Community Safety Services department we are taking an innovative approach to modernization through a Joint Fire Services Assessment with the Town of Georgina. Funded by the province's Municipal Modernization Program – we are looking at ways to deliver these critical services in a way that is more modern and efficient.



I look forward to continuing to work with residents, partners, other levels of government and our staff team to enhance the future of this municipality for generations to come.

In closing – I'd like to thank the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to speak, the Lions and Sun for hosting today's breakfast, my Council colleagues, and staff for attending. Most of all – I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here today.

I'm happy to take any questions at this time.