

## Sewer Back-Up & Flooding: Prevent Flooding in Your Home

Severe rain events can sometimes overwhelm the city's wastewater and storm water sewer systems, especially in older neighbourhoods like Thornhill where the systems were not designed and constructed according to today's standards.

To help protect properties from basement flooding, Markham Council has endorsed the "Private Plumbing Protection Rebate Program." The program offers financial support for property owners who are making certain improvements to their private plumbing system: backwater valves, weeping tile disconnection and sump pumps, and sanitary and storm lateral relining and repair.

Property owners are encouraged to learn the steps in hiring a contractor and to ask questions to find the best candidate for any home or property project. **The City of Markham is not affiliated with any contractors engaged in completing plumbing protection works under the rebate program.**

**Contractors are not permitted to use the Markham logo in their program or promotional materials.** More information can be found on [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca) under "Sewer Back-Up & Flooding."

## Introducing my New Executive Assistant: Lauren Patton

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Lauren Patton who has agreed to be my Executive Assistant while Joanne Martire is on maternity leave.

Lauren is well-known to our community having served previously as EA to Ward 2 Councillor Erin Shapero and for the last four years as a Customer Service Representative in the Contact Centre providing administrative support in a number of city commissions as the need arises. I am fortunate to have someone with her experience assisting me.



Please join me in welcoming Lauren to her new role and in wishing Joanne, her husband and her baby daughter well.

Lauren can be reached at **905-415-7512** or by email at [lpatton@markham.ca](mailto:lpatton@markham.ca).

## Markham Events

Events taking place in the City of Markham can easily be found on the home page of [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca). Simply click on the "See All Markham Events" button and scroll through the months.

## Thornhill Events

Events taking place in Thornhill that I am aware of can be found on my Councillor's web page at [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca). > "About The City of Markham" > "City Council" > "Regional & Ward Councillors" > "Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish". If you have an event you'd like publicized in this way, please send an email to Lauren Patton at [lpatton@markham.ca](mailto:lpatton@markham.ca).

## It's Your Voice Markham!

I have always believed that engaged citizens working together can accomplish extraordinary things. Your Voice Markham is the city's online engagement site that allows you to contribute your ideas and feedback on city matters important to you. Visit [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca) and click on the "Your Voice Markham" button to get started.



## Contact Centre

If you have an issue regarding municipal services, programs and general inquiries (by-law complaints, garbage pick-up, graffiti, illegal dumping, property standards, snow maintenance) please contact the city at **905-477-5530** or [customerservice@markham.ca](mailto:customerservice@markham.ca).



FALL 2019/WINTER 2020

# WARD 1 NEWS



## UPDATE FROM KEITH IRISH, YOUR MARKHAM WARD 1 COUNCILLOR

Dear Residents,

### Welcome to my Fall 2019/Winter 2020 newsletter.

In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of a Ward Councillor, which I am thoroughly enjoying, I have been given meaningful work on a number of other files important to Markham's future.

Earlier this year Mayor Scarpitti invited me to join him on the selection panel responsible for interviewing candidates to be the new City Solicitor and Human Resources Director. In July I was invited to be part of a City of Markham delegation to New York City to study innovative approaches to urban planning. The high-density development in lower Manhattan and Battery Park is not unlike some of what is planned for the Langstaff Gateway in Ward 1, the intersection of Highways 7 and 404 in Ward 8, Markham Centre in Ward 3 and the Future Urban Area in Ward 2. The four-day trip was a wonderful introduction to planning communities with best practices in mind. That work continued in October with tours of Toronto's Sidewalk Labs and The Canary District, a mixed-use housing development in the West Don Lands. And recently, I was invited to work with

KPMG to provide a Ward Councillor's perspective on an end-to-end review of the city's Development Process.

I've written previously that the opportunity to serve our community is both an honour and a privilege and how I am determined to make it even better. In my approach to my role, I think often of the line from Voltaire's poem La Bégueule: "We should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good." As I make decisions in the best interests of our community and city I seek information from a number of sources, consider all the options, look at the potential good and then do what I think is right.

To keep up-to-date please visit my Councillor web page at [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca) > "About The City of Markham" > "City Council" > "Regional & Ward Councillors" > "Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish". You can sign-up for my electronic newsletter there and even follow me on Twitter for more frequent updates. You do not need a Twitter account to do so.

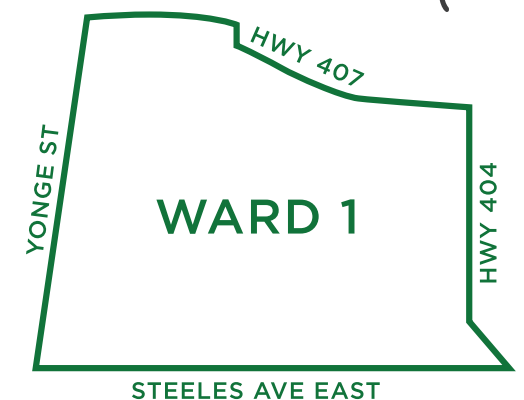
If you have an issue of concern please contact me at [kirish@markham.ca](mailto:kirish@markham.ca) / **905-948-5101** or my Executive Assistant Lauren Patton at [lpatton@markham.ca](mailto:lpatton@markham.ca) / **905-415-7512**.

I wish you, your family and friends a safe and enjoyable winter season.

*Keith*

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This newsletter is distributed using Canada Post walks; a small amount of Ward 8 residents may also receive this.

## Ladies Golf Club/ Tridel Update

At time of writing...the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications submitted in March 2018 on behalf of the Ladies Golf Club of Toronto by Tridel will be discussed, debated and decided **November 25 at Council's Development Services Committee, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the Council Chamber at the Markham Civic Centre. The meeting is open to the public and if you are unable to attend in person you can view the live stream accessible from [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca).

The proposal is to build a 12-storey residential building, a 14-storey residential building and a public park on 2.46 acres of land, currently comprising the 9th hole of the golf course, located at the southwest corner of Royal Orchard Boulevard and Bayview Avenue. I am pleased that Tridel agreed to my request earlier this year to reduce the number of units by 19 from 192 to 173.

The final report from the city's Planning department will be available on the city's website approximately one week in advance of the meeting.

## Proposed New Development: The "Shops on Steeles and 404"

Bayview Summit Corporation owns the "Shops on Steeles and 404" retail plaza located on the north side of Steeles Avenue East between Don Mills Road and the Highway 404 off-ramp. The property, municipally known as 2900 Steeles Avenue East, was the subject of an Ontario Municipal Board Decision in 2011. The OMB approved applications to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to permit the redevelopment of the property into a mixed use community including five residential towers ranging between 15 and 25 storeys above mid-rise podiums with a total of 1,235 residential units as well as office uses, open spaces, and the relocation of the existing grocery store.

The city is now in receipt of two applications submitted by Bayview Summit Corporation to facilitate a residential high-rise development on the east side of the property adjacent to the southbound Highway 404 off-ramp.

Those applications, somewhat technical in nature, include a Zoning By-law application to remove a Hold provision which includes reviewing Municipal Servicing and Transportation Studies. The Hold must be removed prior to issuing a

building permit. The Zoning By-law to remove the Hold must be approved by Markham Council with the date of that meeting still to be determined.

The second is a Consent application to sever and convey a parcel of land and to establish access and servicing easements. This is to create a parcel of land for the proposed development. The Consent application for land severance must be approved by the Committee of Adjustment at a public hearing still to be scheduled.

## Proposed New Development: Royal Orchard Plaza

The city is now in receipt of Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, submitted by Greencapital Limited Partnership (Greenpark), for the block of land at 10 Royal Orchard Blvd. - better known as the Food Basics plaza - between Yonge Street and Inverlochy Blvd. Greenpark purchased the property in December 2017.

The proposal includes:

- The development of 1,560 residential units shared between 4 residential high-rise buildings ranging between 25 and 59 storeys
- 4000 m<sup>2</sup> (43,056 ft<sup>2</sup>) of non-residential gross floor area including a grocery store
- A total of 1,866 parking spaces located above and below ground
- A public park at the northwest corner of Royal Orchard and Inverlochy

The Region of York has designated this location as a Major Transit Station Area and as such a site for increased density. A MTSA is the approximate 500-metre radius area (representing a 10-minute walk) around an existing or planned subway station. We do anticipate construction of a subway station here as part of the proposed Yonge North Subway Extension (from Finch to Richmond Hill Centre).

However, we are at the very beginning of a lengthy planning process and

far from making a decision on this application. There will be opportunities for all Ward 1 residents to comment on what is being proposed.

## Shouldice Hospital Project Update

I have met twice with representatives from Liberty Development, the new owners of the Shouldice Hospital property. They have a pre-consultation meeting scheduled with the city's Planning department in the next few weeks and anticipate submitting a formal development application sometime in the first half of 2020.

The hospital will continue to operate under a lease agreement for 17 years. However, it is Liberty's intent, should they receive approval from Markham Council, to begin developing around the hospital while it continues to operate. The hospital, built in 1937, is a heritage asset listed on the Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.

## St. Robert Catholic High School: Single Entrance/Exit

I've been working with the parent council, school administration, Board of Trustees and Markham's Traffic Engineers and Fire & Emergency Services to resolve what we consider to be a potentially dangerous condition regarding the existing fire access route at St. Robert Catholic High School.

Only one entrance/exit combined with significant vehicular traffic, especially during the morning and afternoon bells, creates a potentially dangerous condition that could inhibit emergency vehicle access to the school. To solve the problem, we are working hard to have the northerly entrance reopened as a right-in/right-out entrance/exit. It was closed several years ago due to its proximity to Highway 407 when it was constructed.

This is one of those frustrating multi-jurisdictional issues that



With Deputy Fire Chief Grant, the crew of Markham Fire Station 9-1, Recreation staff and members of the Thornhill Firefighter Summer Camp. I was pleased to have been invited in August to officially welcome our eager campers.

people have a right to complain is taking too long to resolve. Addressing the issue requires agreement from representatives of the York Catholic District School Board, the Region of York (since Leslie Street is a Regional road) and the provincial ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure. The City of Markham is participating as an honest broker, bringing the parties together in hopes of quickly implementing a solution.

## E.J. Sand Public School

Construction of the new E.J. Sand Public School on the site that formerly housed both it and Woodland Public School on Henderson Avenue has been delayed at least a year while the York Region District School Board awaits approval to proceed from the Ministry of Education.

I am in regular contact with the YRDSB's Associate Director responsible for Schools & Operations and the local Trustee ready to lend a hand should one be required. While the community anxiously awaits approval before year end, we do remain hopeful construction can begin in early 2020 with the building ready for students September 2021.

## Renaming a Section of Meadowview Avenue

At my request Markham Council recently agreed to rename the section of Meadowview Avenue between Yonge Street and Doncaster Avenue to Doncaster Avenue.

Those owning homes along this stretch were contacted in advance and given an opportunity to comment; none were received.

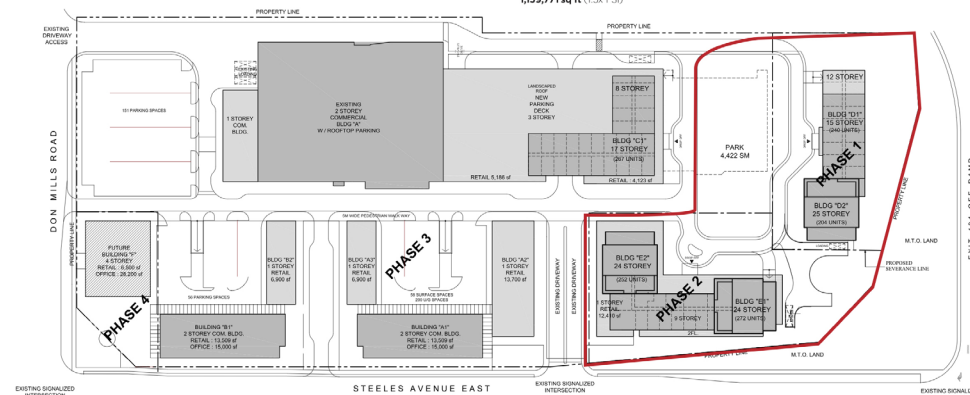
Meadowview Avenue originally ran continuously as one street from Yonge Street to a point just east of Jewel Street. When Doncaster was constructed this section of Meadowview was separated from the remainder to the east and not renamed.

Clearing up this confusion by naming the entire length as Doncaster Avenue resolves an important operational issue for Markham's Fire Department. Until now they were forced to send two fire trucks, one to the eastern section and one to the western section, for instances where calls are dropped and it is not known where along Meadowview the emergency response is required.

## Grandview Park

I am pleased that construction at Grandview Park to build a number of new amenities - valued at \$1.8M - including a skateboard zone, splash pad, a new playground with improved accessibility features, a pavilion building with washrooms, and other related landscape improvements has begun. The monies were received, under the auspices of Section 37 of the Planning Act, from Liberty Development to be used for local improvements in exchange for higher density when World On Yonge was built. All construction is expected to be complete by Fall 2020.

## 2011 OMB settlement plan SITE PLAN



- A. Site Area: 12.7 Acres (716 Hectares)  
Portion to be serviced: 4.1 Acres (1.66 Hectares)
- B. Maximum Allowable Residential Towers: 5
- C. Maximum Allowable GFA for the project: 1,159,771 sq ft (1.5x F5)
- D. Maximum Unit Count: 1,235
- E. Privately Owned Public Space: 47,600 sq ft (4,422 SM)

2011 OMB-approved Shops on Steeles Site Plan