

## Cancellation of the Thornhill Village Festival

After 42 years of serving as the host organization to the Thornhill Village Festival (Thornhill Village Cultural Festival, 2018) the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPOHT) has made the difficult decision to cancel future Thornhill Village Festival events.

While the Festival has come to an end, the Society's mission to celebrate and promote the heritage and traditions of our community remains unchanged.

SPOHT is considering options for a new, more manageable, event that makes their mission the focus. For more information, including membership, please visit: [www.thornhillhistoric.org](http://www.thornhillhistoric.org)

## German Mills Community Centre & Heintzman House Rentals

We are fortunate in Thornhill to have unique facilities, in addition to the Thornhill Community Centre, for rent. They include halls and meeting rooms in a variety of sizes with features ranging from fireplaces to kitchen access to auditorium-quality stages. Whatever your needs, we have the perfect venue for your special event. For information please call **905-944-3800**.

## 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.

## 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.

 @KeithIrish1

 Keith Irish

 @keith.irish



Check out "**Ward 1 Talk**" on YouTube to see me talk about issues important to you while promoting local businesses and places of interest.



*With Mayor Scarpitti and members of the Budget Committee. I'm proud that we kept tax rates low while delivering exceptional services.*



## 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) please contact the city at **905-477-5530** or [customerservice@markham.ca](mailto:customerservice@markham.ca).

### Key Contacts

**CN Public Inquiry**  
**1 (888) 888-5909**  
[contact@cn.ca](mailto:contact@cn.ca)

**Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA)**  
 Noise Management Office  
**(416) 247-7682**  
 Visit [www.torontopearson.com](http://www.torontopearson.com) to complete an online complaint form.

**York Regional Police Non-Emergency**  
**Contact Information**  
**1-866-876-5423**  
[info@yrp.ca](mailto:info@yrp.ca)



**KEITH IRISH**  
**COUNCILLOR WARD 1**

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

# WARD 1 NEWS



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

Dear Residents,

**Welcome to my first bi-annual newsletter. In addition to semi-regular newsletters by email, I will provide you with timely news of interest about our community that you can use.**

Ward 1 is unique. Not only is it Markham's most populous Ward, with borders shared with three other municipalities – Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Toronto – we have the highest number of seniors, a large Heritage Conservation District, a planned subway extension, new development pressures like no other in our city, and even the most sidewalks (which require regular maintenance throughout the year and clearing in winter)!

The Provincial Government's transit announcement in April to build the **Yonge North Subway Extension** from Finch to Richmond Hill Centre, at a cost of \$5.6B, while very welcomed news, is already putting intense development pressure on Markham and Vaughan along the Yonge Street corridor. Sadly, our current infrastructure cannot accommodate it and while I appreciate that developers are anxious to build, the concerns of residents who live here now should not be ignored. Development decisions made by our

neighbouring municipalities also have an impact on us. This dilemma requires a coordinated and measured approach since the Provincial Planning Act states that municipalities must consider all development applications they receive.

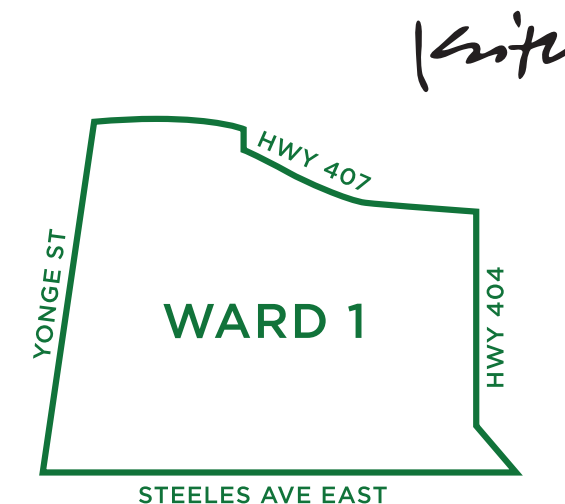
On a personal note, after six months in office I often get asked how it's going so far. My response is always the same: I love representing you and our community. I am often reminded of the ancient Greek definition of happiness: "the full use of your powers along lines of excellence". The chance to serve the community I have called home for over 30 years is both an honour and a privilege and I am determined to make it even better.

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.

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 Joanne Martire at [jmartire@markham.ca](mailto:jmartire@markham.ca) / **905-415-7512**.

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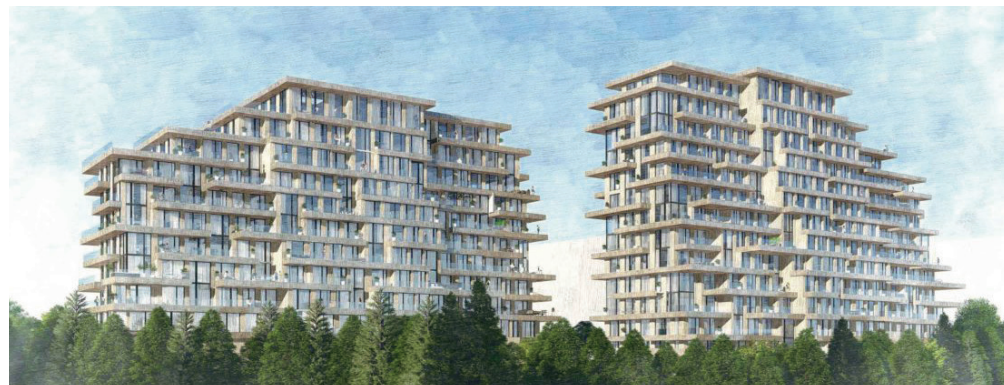
## Proposed New Development: Royal Orchard & Bayview

Most Ward 1 residents are aware of Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications submitted in March 2018 on behalf of the **Ladies Golf Club of Toronto by Tridel**.

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. The proposal includes plans for 192 units and underground parking for 367 cars.

My Community Information Meeting held on March 27 at the Thornhill Community Centre was standing room only with over 225 people in attendance including nine (of 13) members of Markham Council. Residents heard from representatives of the Ladies Golf Club, Tridel and City of Markham Planning Staff.

While Markham Council awaits a Planning staff report, which considers feedback from the community and other stakeholders, I have written to Tridel asking that they reduce the number of proposed units, thereby reducing the number of cars, and help advocate for and fund the installation of a new traffic light where Royal Orchard meets (southbound) Bayview. If Council



Proposed Tridel buildings

approves this project, it is my belief these changes will help aid traffic flow and ease congestion currently experienced by those heading southbound on Bayview, as well as those wishing to travel east on Green Lane.

## Proposed New Development: 36-60 Steeles Avenue East and 37-63 Highland Park Boulevard

The city is now in receipt of complete Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, submitted by Zonix Group Inc., for **the block of land currently occupied by 27 homes (36-60 Steeles Avenue and 37-63 Highland Park Blvd.) between Dudley Avenue and Willowdale Avenue**.

The proposal includes two 13 storey mixed use buildings on Steeles Avenue and two 8 storey residential buildings on Highland Park Blvd. The proposed Official Plan amendment applies to the entire block bounded by Steeles Avenue, Dudley Avenue, Highland Park Blvd. and Willowdale Avenue. The proposed Zoning By-law amendment applies to Phase 1 development at 36-48 Steeles Avenue.

I hosted a small introductory meeting between Zonix Group and members of the executive of the **Grandview Area Residents Association (GARA)**

on May 23. There will be opportunities for all Ward 1 residents to comment on the proposal at a future Statutory Public Meeting (at the Civic Centre) and a Community Information Meeting (hosted by me). Markham Council is awaiting a preliminary report from Planning Staff. Dates for both meetings are still to be determined.

## Proposed New Development: Langstaff Gateway

In 2018, Zoning By-law Amendment and draft plan of subdivision applications were received from Condor Properties Ltd. to build the first development block (Phase 1A) within the west Precinct area of the Langstaff Gateway community. The latter is the 47-hectare (116 acre) area of land bounded by Yonge in the west, Bayview in the east, Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in the south and Highway 407 in the north. For development planning purposes, the area is divided into three precincts: west, central and east.

The Condor applications include construction of two 47 and 38 storey residential towers totalling 910 units, plus 27 townhouses integrated into the building podiums, as well as the reconstruction of the Yonge Street-Langstaff Road intersection and the construction of the southern segment of a new north-south public road, Creek Street. The application was deemed complete by City of Markham Planning staff on October 18, 2018.

**A Statutory Public Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. June 18, 2019 at the Markham Civic Centre.** This is the first opportunity for residents to learn more about what is proposed, to ask questions and provide feedback. I hope you can attend.



45 John Street

## Shouldice Hospital

In late March the Superior Court of Justice approved the sale of Shouldice Hospital assets in Markham to "7750 Bayview Avenue Limited Partnership".

The City of Markham has confirmed that the corporate partner of the 7750 Bayview Avenue Limited Partnership purchasing the lands is a Liberty Development Corporation company, a developer of commercial, office and residential buildings in the GTA.

At the time of writing, my first meeting with representatives of Liberty is scheduled for late May.

## Shinrin-yoku Comes to Pomona Mills Park

Those strolling through Pomona Mills Park have undoubtedly seen the "forest bathing" or shinrin-yoku forest therapy signs. There are advantages to be gained from spending time under the canopy of a living forest and these signs explain the mental and physical health benefits. I hope you enjoy them.

## Jesus the King Melkite Catholic Church

I met with Father Ibrahim Haddad and a senior member of the congregation of Jesus the King

Melkite Catholic Church, located at 1 Lyndhurst Drive, in March. Those that live in the neighbourhood or drive Leslie Street north of John Street know that the Church suffered a devastating fire in 2016 and has been unusable. I am pleased to share news that the Church leadership has plans to rebuild and has had preliminary discussions with Markham Planning staff to begin the process.

## Grandview Park

After interminable delays it appears we are edging closer to construction of the new amenities planned for Grandview Park. The city is targeting May for release of the tender, analysis in June and construction (hopefully) in July.

## Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

In January work being performed to the Class A heritage home at **30 Colborne Street** was discovered to be contrary to the Site Plan Agreement (approved drawings) and the *Ontario Heritage Act*. A "Stop Work Order" was issued.

While work has since recommenced, the owner has been charged under the *Heritage Act* and separately under the *Building Code Act* by our Building Department and if found guilty/pleads guilty could incur fines.

In recent discussions that have included guidance from Heritage Markham staff, the owner has agreed to take corrective action using historically appropriate replica material.

On the afternoon of April 4, Markham's Fire Department responded to a house fire at **45 John Street**, south side just east of Church Lane, in the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District.

I have since learned that the Office of the Fire Marshal considers the cause to be "undetermined". This is due in part to the amount of damage that occurred aided by timber framing and late detection of the fire, which is believed to have started in the basement.

There is no information at this time to suggest anything suspicious and the property has since been turned over to the owner to determine next steps. I am grateful no one was injured.

## Aileen-Willowbrook Residents Association

I have been working closely with members of AWRA over the past several months to address issues of concern to residents in the Aileen-Willowbrook area. We have made progress addressing the unsightly state of the back lots belonging to businesses located behind homes on the southern stretch of Tamarack Drive. We have also had meetings with Markham's Environmental Services team to help mitigate local flooding issues. Activities include: identifying homes that require disconnecting sanitary downspouts, adding roads in the area to the city's priority inspection list and assessing the need to upgrade sewer and stormwater requirements as part of a study initiated after the 2017 storms.