

In addition, **Phase 3A** work already underway along Morgan Avenue towards Yonge Street and the Laureleaf area watermain upgrades are scheduled to be completed in Fall 2021.

For more information, please contact Paul Ahn, Manager, Infrastructure Capital Delivery at **416-899-6293** or email **PAhn@markham.ca**.

A Word about Development Applications

There is no question our community is facing significant development pressure. The "Places to Grow Act" became law in 2005. At its core it advocates for higher density development in order to protect the Greenbelt from construction. The focus - *mandated by the provincial government* - is on building up versus out.

Furthermore, the Provincial Planning Act permits owners of land to entertain any changes, regardless of current zoning, by submitting an amendment to the Official Plan and/or a Zoning By-law amendment application. **All municipalities, by law, must consider them.**

The pressure new development can place on our local infrastructure - roads, schools, libraries, community centres, public transit, water, stormwater and sewer capacity - is intense.

I examine each development application on its individual merits as well as its context relative to others that I am aware of and how it fits or does not our broader community. I carefully consider the ability of our local infrastructure to absorb it, the impact it is likely to have on our quality of life and natural environment, as well as its compatibility with the fabric of our established Thornhill neighbourhoods that we all cherish.

There are always opportunities for all Ward 1 residents to comment on what is being proposed by writing or calling me and attending Statutory Public and Community Information Meetings.

The Deputy Mayor's Exchange

For over 100 consecutive weeks Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton has published the "Deputy Mayor's Exchange." It's an informative e-newsletter full of information useful to residents across Markham and delivered direct to your email inbox every Sunday evening. You can subscribe by visiting: www.donhamilton.ca/signup/



March 14, 2021
The Deputy Mayor's Exchange - 100th Edition



Keeping you Informed & Connected: Announcing MarkhamWard1.ca

This newly launched website, www.markhamward1.ca, brings Ward 1 Thornhill residents a wealth of local information and news. It also gives you an opportunity to let me and my Markham Council colleagues know how you feel about important issues facing our community. Visit often and keep up-to-date.



Around the Ward in 80...Words

Updates on previous Ward 1 News items...

- The "Shops on Steeles and 404" at 2900 Steeles Avenue East**
 Bayview Summit Corporation withdrew their development application.
- Carl Reesor James House at 8127 Bayview Avenue**
 The owner, the City of Toronto, is looking to find a suitable tenant saving the home from "demolition by neglect."
- Greenpark Development Proposal for 10 Royal Orchard Blvd.**
 The application is being revised by the applicant to address issues including Metrolinx's proposed alignment for the Yonge North Subway Extension and the possibility of a station on this site.
- Grandview Park**
 The \$1.83M construction of a skateboard zone, splash pad, new playground, and pavilion building with washrooms was completed in Fall 2020.
- 32 Colborne Street, Thornhill Heritage Conservation District**
 Heritage Markham approved new home plans April 14, 2021.

Canada Day

Though simple with its red and white colours and a single maple leaf, the Canadian flag symbolizes pride in our country. Even though we cannot celebrate together as we've done in the past, I encourage everyone to take a moment on July 1 and be grateful to call Canada home.



SPRING / SUMMER 2021

WARD 1 NEWS



UPDATE FROM KEITH IRISH, YOUR MARKHAM WARD 1 COUNCILLOR

Dear Residents,

I hope this message finds you, your families, and friends all safe and healthy.

I've written previously in this space of leadership, here and abroad, during this public health crisis that has besieged us for over a year. To repeat a line from my November 2020 newsletter: "Crises have a way of magnifying errors in judgment and also bringing out the best in people..."

Canadians have an indomitable spirit. We feel there isn't anything we cannot do, and do well, when called upon. We never give up nor admit defeat. Yet, there is no denying serious mistakes have been made during this pandemic as we lurch from wave to wave and issue to issue and our hospitals become overwhelmed. Unclear and confusing solutions and their consequences have made it stressful for many.

Someone, replying to an article in the Financial Post earlier this year, described us this way: "Canada is like the dog lying on the porch that occasionally barks, but can't run with the big dogs." That stings.

Someone else argued we need a modern-day C.D. Howe, a successful "kick-ass" Canadian engineer, businessman and politician credited with transforming our nation's economy from agriculture-based to industrial in the mid 20th Century and for being instrumental in his contributions to helping us win the Second World War. Others are looking for a contemporary Winston Churchill, decisive, combative, and confident in victory.

While the truth can hurt, it can also be instructive.

Somewhere along the way last year, I began likening this crisis to a war. We are at war with this virus and its variants. So, we need to adopt a war-footing. It is, as William James wrote in 1906, "the moral equivalent of war". If we had sooner, do you think some politicians would consider it okay to leave the country for expensive tropical vacations while the rest of us suffered through the strict restrictions and obeyed the rules they themselves had set?

I am an optimist by nature and believe in my heart that most of us are too. It is with that in mind that I share a story from my childhood by the Irish writer Frank O'Connor, of how as a boy he and his friends would make their way across the countryside, and when they came to an orchard wall that seemed too high and too doubtful to try and too difficult to permit their voyage to continue, they simply took off their caps and tossed them over the wall - and then they had no choice but to follow them.

Let's throw our collective cap over the highest wall and do what we all know we are capable of: running once again with the big dogs. I know we can.

If you have an issue of concern please contact me at kirish@markham.ca / **905-948-5101** or my Executive Assistant Lauren Patton at lpattton@markham.ca / **905-415-7512**.

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Keeping Markham Beautiful

Markham By-law 2017-27 stipulates that the grass on your private property and on the boulevard at the front and/or side of your home must be cut and maintained to 15 centimetres (6 inches) or lower. Hedges and bushes must be kept from being overgrown, the exterior of homes in good repair, painted and maintained, and garbage and recycling containers placed for pick-up no earlier than 7:00 p.m. the day prior to collection.

If you see a property in chronic violation of the By-law, please report it to the city's Customer Service team at **905-477-5530** or customerservice@markham.ca. Those that do not comply are likely to receive a visit from a By-law Enforcement Officer. A minimum fee of \$475 may be charged if the city is forced to cut your grass.



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, park maintenance) please contact the city at **905-477-5530** or customerservice@markham.ca.

@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.

KEITH IRISH
COUNCILLOR WARD 1

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

New Bayview Glen Playground

Working closely with members of the community and the Parent Council at Bayview Glen Public School to help select age-appropriate amenities, we replaced the playground equipment at Bayview Glen Park late last year.

The work also included relocating the playground onto City of Markham property, the use of engineered wood safety surfacing, the installation of concrete curbing, repairs to the existing asphalt pathway, and updated park benches and waste/recycling receptacles on concrete pads.



Photo courtesy of Voula Kladis

E.J. Sand Public School

A phoenix in Ancient Greek folklore is a long-lived bird that regenerates and obtains new life by rising from the ashes of its predecessor. While E.J. Sand's mascot is a fox and not a bird, I am pleased to report that the City of Markham recently approved a new site plan, submitted by the York Region District School Board, to rebuild the school. The plan can be viewed on my website www.markhamward1.ca under the "Developments" tab.

This is an important milestone in seeing a new two-storey school built on the site previously occupied by both Woodland Public School and the old E.J. Sand. The YRDSB has informed me that **construction will begin in the next few months**. I am also very happy to report that negotiations between the city and the school board have resulted in the conveyance of 2.02 hectares (5 acres) of land here to the city for parkland as well as the 1.3 hectare (3.2 acre) woodlot at the east end of the site.

A delay in this project occurred early last year when an ancestral Huron-Wendat Village was discovered on the southern portion of the site. Through positive dialogue with the Huron-Wendat Nation, the school board shifted placement of the school slightly north to respect the discovery of the village.

The Huron-Wendat Nation is well-known throughout Markham. I had the pleasure

of visiting this First Nation in Wendake, Quebec in 2019 as a guest of Grand Chief Konrad Sioui.

In addition, my sons attended E.J. Sand and like many members of the community we are all looking forward to seeing it rebuilt.

Why no Vaccination Clinic in Thornhill?

Over several weeks earlier this year I worked behind the scenes lobbying hard for an early COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Thornhill.

Public Health in Markham, including administering the vaccine, is the responsibility of The Region of York. While I was able to easily convince the five members of Regional Council that are members of Markham Council, Mayor Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Regional Councillors Heath, Li and Jones, we were unsuccessful.

Markham's Ward 1 with a population of 45K is our city's most populous and home to the highest number of seniors. We deserved a clinic of our own to conveniently serve Thornhill residents in both Markham and Vaughan.

For the latest public health information on the COVID-19 pandemic, I encourage you to visit:

www.york.ca > COVID-19

www.markham.ca > COVID-19
Information

Proposed New Development: Thornhill Square Shopping Centre

The city is now in receipt of Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications, submitted by the Goldberg Group on behalf of Timbercreek Quadrant Four GP INC. ("Timbercreek") for the 3.13 hectares (7.75 acres) of what is currently the Thornhill Square Shopping Centre at 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298 and 300 John Street.

The application proposes:

- The development of 579 residential (market-based rental) units shared between 5 towers ranging between 8 and 15 storeys
- Site Density of 2.04 Floor Space Index (FSI)
- Total Gross Floor Area for Residential uses is 19,273 m² (207,453 ft²), and
- Total Proposed Gross Floor Area for Retail, Office and Commercial uses is 9,000 m² (96,875 ft²)
- A total of 1,016 below ground parking

spaces, located within one parking level, and 34 surface parking spaces

- A 0.33 hectare (0.81 acre) public park fronting John Street
- The existing John Welsh heritage building (Santorini's) to remain

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 at a future Statutory Public Meeting and a Community Information Meeting. Dates for both are still to be determined.

More information is available on markhamward1.ca.

Proposed New Development: Langstaff Gateway (East)

The city is now in receipt of complete Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications, submitted by Langstaff Land Holdings Ltd. ("Kylemore Communities"), for 3.92 hectares (9.69 acres) at 201, 203, 205, and 206 Langstaff Road East and 3, 5, 11, and 17 Essex Avenue in the Langstaff Gateway.



Kylemore's Conceptual Rendering

The application proposes:

- The development of 1,668 residential units with ground floor retail space shared between 6 buildings ranging between 7 and 49 storeys
- Gross Floor Area (GFA) of 130,920 m² (1,409,211 ft²), consisting of 129,029 m² (1,388,857 ft²) of residential space and 1,891 m² (20,355 ft²) of retail space
- Site Density of 6.2 Floor Space Index (FSI)
- A total of 1,976 parking spaces in an underground parking garage
- A new 0.61 hectare (1.51 acre) public park
- Preservation of the existing 0.36 hectare (1 acre) Langstaff Woodlot
- A new east-west public street along the northern border of Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery

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 at a future Statutory Public Meeting and a Community Information Meeting. Dates for both are still to be determined.

More information is available on markhamward1.ca.

Yonge North Subway Extension

On March 18, 2021 Metrolinx announced, without any prior community consultation, its long-awaited plans for the Yonge North Subway Extension (YNSE).

The subway extension is one of four top priorities in the Province of Ontario's Transit Plan. With a capital cost funding commitment by the Federal government on May 11, 2021 the project is now fully funded by all three levels of government.

The key elements of the plan are:

- The subway will be constructed underground from Finch Station to the Langstaff GO station/Richmond Hill Centre
- Three new subway stations will be constructed: Steeles Avenue (at Yonge), a "Bridge" station nestled in-between Highways 7 and 407 near the existing Langstaff GO station, and a "High Tech" station near the Silver City movie theatre in Richmond Hill
- Consideration, but no final determination yet, of at least one more subway station: Cummer Avenue/Drewry Avenue (at Yonge) in Toronto, or Clark Avenue (at Yonge) in Thornhill, or Royal Orchard Blvd. (at Yonge) where the Food Basics plaza is located

Most notable, however, is the **proposed alignment of the subway** (known as Option 3) as it travels north of Centre Street/Thornhill Summit Drive in Thornhill. Metrolinx is proposing that it swing east close to Royal Orchard Blvd. at an initial depth of 30 metres below ground and travel northeast below homes (at depths that vary between 15 and 30 metres) under Donalbain Crescent and portions of Thorny Brae Drive and Banquo Road as it continues through the neighbourhood before turning north (still underground) at Kirk Drive near the southern portion of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School. It will continue travelling underground along the existing CN Railway/GO Train corridor until coming above ground just

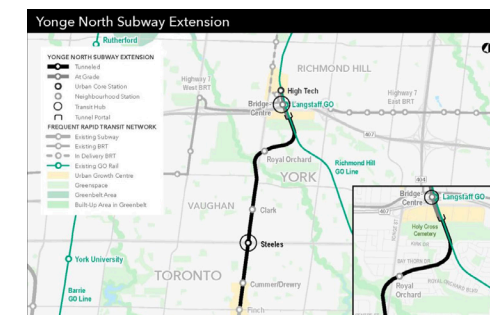
north of Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery as it proceeds to the proposed Bridge station.

I want to see a subway constructed that will serve the residents of Thornhill. **However, I am opposed to any alignment that does not adhere to Yonge Street. I am therefore opposed to any route that sees the subway travelling underground below a section of homes in the Royal Orchard neighbourhood.**

The Royal Orchard community has very quickly come together in opposition to Metrolinx's Option 3 subway plan and is mobilizing. If you'd like to help in their efforts, I encourage you to visit www.subwayatro.com.

You can direct questions and comments directly to Metrolinx at: YongeSubwayExt@metrolinx.com or **416-202-7000**.

Please visit markhamward1.ca often for the latest updates on the subway and other issues important to residents of Markham's Ward 1.



Metrolinx's Option 3 Alignment

Markham Approves 0% Property Tax Rate Increase

On December 9, 2020, Markham Council approved the city's 2021 \$520.9M budget with a zero per cent property tax rate increase. Doing so will help Markham property owners better weather the uncertain and challenging times caused by the pandemic.

In anticipation that COVID-19 will continue to impact many property taxpayers this year, Markham Council also approved a new **Property Tax and Stormwater Fee Payment Deferral Program** to support property owners who have been financially affected by COVID-19. This assistance is by application only and is meant to aid residential and business property owners who require payment flexibility throughout the 2021 taxation year.

More information about the program and eligibility requirements can be found at: markham.ca/TaxRelief.

Additionally, the suspension of the one per cent Municipal Accommodation Tax

(MAT) to provide relief to hoteliers will continue throughout the 2021 taxation year.

Thornhill 2021-22 Flood Control Projects: Johnson Street & Royal Orchard Area

On August 19, 2005, the West Thornhill community was impacted by a severe rainstorm during which stormwater runoff exceeded the capacity of drainage systems and caused extensive flooding of private property and roadways.

The West Thornhill Stormwater Flood Remediation Class Environmental Assessment Study identified system improvements to increase capacity and reduce the risk of flooding. An implementation strategy was adopted by Markham Council in October 2011 based on flood risk priorities. All Markham residential taxpayers pay an annual \$51 fee and non-residential pay a variable fee of \$28.50/\$100,000 of current value assessment, to fund this work city-wide.

Here are details of the **Phase 3B (2021-22) work**:

- Johnson Street will see a storm water upgrade from Clark Avenue to Elgin Street
- Johnson Street in its entirety will have the watermain replaced
- St. Andres Court, Ida Street, Dove Lane and Warton Court will have the watermain replaced

Here are details of the **Phase 4A (2021-22) work**:

- Royal Orchard Blvd. will have a sanitary sewer upgrade from Royal Orchard Park to Augusta Court
- Royal Orchard Blvd. will have a storm sewer upgrade from Kirk Drive to Augusta Court
- Kirk Drive will have a storm sewer upgrade from Royal Orchard Blvd. to Knotty Pine Trail
- Knotty Pine Trail will have a storm sewer upgrade
- The eastern portion of Blue Spruce Lane will have a storm sewer upgrade
- The entrance to Augusta Court and its eastern portion will have a storm sewer upgrade

The work is scheduled to begin in May 2021 and be completed in Fall 2022.

Phase 4B work in the Romfield Circuit area is scheduled for 2023-24 and **Phase 4C** work west of Royal Orchard Park is scheduled for 2024-25.