

Main Street Unionville Restoration

I know many Thornhill residents, as I do, shop, dine and enjoy events year-round on Unionville's Main Street. That is why I want you to be aware that the city has begun a significant project to improve, preserve and enhance the street's historic charm.

The restoration will focus on critical infrastructure improvements, including the upgrade of watermains and storm sewers, installation of new sidewalks, boulevards, road surfaces, and a street light system from Highway 7 to Carlton Road, on Carlton Road and the east lane (behind the Main Street corridor).

The good news, in addition to the \$13M worth of improvements, is that the retail stores and world-class restaurants will remain open during this work which is expected to be complete by end of 2025.

For more information, please visit yourvoicemarkham.ca/mainstreetunionvilledesign

Development Update: 8190 - 8200 Bayview Avenue (The Dollarama Plaza)

The developer revised their application in May 2024 and I held a Community Information Meeting October 9. Details of what is now proposed and a recording of the meeting can be found on markhamward1.ca

Development Update: 2300 John Street (Bishops Cross Plaza)

After a two-plus year hiatus, the owner of the Bishops Cross Plaza has revised their application to redevelop the 1.14 hectare (2.8 acres) site. They are now proposing a mixed-use development of four residential buildings with heights of 9, 10, 12 and 24 storeys on a shared two-storey podium, 723 apartment units and underground parking for 904 vehicles. The Floor Space Index is 3.89.

At time of writing a Statutory Public Meeting on this application was held November 19. The purpose of this meeting is to receive feedback from members of the public on the proposal submitted. No decision has been made on this application. Provided the applicant does not file an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal, I will host a Community Information Meeting with the details still to be determined.

For more information on this application, please contact Rick Cefaratti, Senior Planner at the City of Markham at rcefaratti@markham.ca The files can also be viewed here: markhamward1.ca/2300-john-st



Contact Centre

If you have an issue regarding municipal services, programs and general inquiries (snow removal, 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

Keeping you Informed & Connected: MarkhamWard1.ca

This website, markhamward1.ca, brings Ward 1 Thornhill residents a wealth of local information and news. Visit often and keep up-to-date!

Check out "Keith's Notebook" on markhamward1.ca for even more information on topics of interest to Ward 1 Thornhill residents.



Ward 1 2024 Capital Projects

Markham is a well-managed city with great staff and services. In addition to providing efficient day-to-day operations, I think it is important for residents and local businesses to know that in 2024 the city **invested \$5.74M in Thornhill** through a host of capital project improvements.

Here's the Top 10:

Project Name	Amount
1 Asphalt Road Resurfacing: Old English Lane, Matta Lane, Hampshire Court, Carriage Hill Court, Doncaster Avenue, Fairway Heights Drive, Fairway Heights Crescent, Green Lane from CN Rail Tracks to Bayview Avenue, John Street from Leslie/Don Mills to Woodbine Avenue	\$1,817,862
2 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Playground Refurbishments - Year 2 of 4: Proctor Park, Bayview Reservoir Park, Drake Park, Duncan Park, Lundy Park, Paddock Park, Pioneer Park, Romfield Park, Glencrest Park, Johnsvie Park, Pomona Mills Park, Bishops Cross Park, Railside Park, Rayneswood Park, Royal Orchard Park, Franklin Carmichael Park, Green Lane Park	\$1,379,739
3 Thornhill Community Centre Refrigeration System, Fitness Spa and Pro Shop Flooring, East Rink Arena Safety Netting, Industrial Kitchen Equipment Replacement and Windows and Walls Refurbishment	\$1,063,900
4 Curb Box Inspection and Replacement Program (the valves used to turn on/off the water supply on private property)	\$477,500
5 Clatworthy Arena Rubber Floor, Front Entrance Concrete, Arena Window and Ice Equipment Replacement, Expansion Joint Refurbishment	\$278,000
6 German Mills Meadow - Equipment and Boundary Fence Maintenance	\$259,500
7 Bayview Reservoir Park Pickle Ball and Tennis Court Resurfacing and Reconstruction	\$177,400
8 Fence (Tennis Courts) and Fence (Backstop and Outfield) Replacement in Simonston Park and Duncan Park	\$176,500
9 Heintzman House Front Entrance Stone Refurbishment and Basement Carpet Replacement	\$73,500
10 St. Robert Soccer Dome Painting Project and Washroom Counter Replacement	\$36,000

FALL 2024 / WINTER 2025

WARD 1 NEWS



UPDATE FROM KEITH IRISH, YOUR MARKHAM WARD 1 COUNCILLOR

Dear Residents,

This year marked the centenary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. This milestone and the enduring legacy of all those who have and continue to serve our country with distinction was a highlight of this year's Remembrance Day observances.

I have always had a curious interest in Latin and the RCAF's slogan, for most of its history, of *Per Ardua Ad Astra* — "Through Adversity to the Stars" — struck me as particularly poignant considering the angst many people are feeling today.

A changing world is not new. For good or ill each generation has had their burdens to bear. And, we have survived...and flourished. Ours is no different. Regardless of your personal viewpoint on the issues of the day, one thing is certain: "Obstacles are seldom the same size tomorrow as they are today."

Two years ago, at the Inaugural Meeting of Markham Council I said:

"...we cannot work in isolation and ignore the broader backdrop of the times in which we live as we confront

the lasting impacts of the pandemic, as well as economic uncertainty, civil unrest, climate change and geopolitical conflict."

I went on to reassert my belief in the power of local government to make things better for people. Local issues remain the ones that touch our lives every day and can have the greatest impact on our quality of life.

And, while we cannot control external events and the impact they may or may not have on us in Thornhill, we can reaffirm what the Ancient Greek philosopher Epictetus said: "It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."

Keep calm and carry on. I am.

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

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

Proposed New Development: 16 - 30 Glen Cameron Road

The city is now in receipt of applications to amend both the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, submitted by Sunfield Glen Cameron Developments LP, to permit the redevelopment of the single family homes known municipally as 16 to 30 Glen Cameron Road. The subject properties have a total area of approximately 0.48 hectares (1.18 acres).

The applications are to facilitate the development of two residential towers (44 and 47 storeys in height) consisting of 1,097 dwelling units, three levels of underground parking for 286 cars and no commercial space. The Floor Space Index (FSI) is 15.25.*

I am pleased to share that the applicant has agreed to await the outcome of the Yonge Corridor Secondary Plan before a Statutory Public Meeting on this application is scheduled.

*The Floor Space Index (FSI) calculation is derived from the total floor area of the buildings divided by the area of the property. It is an indicator of density.

Windrow Removal

The City of Markham offers a Windrow Removal Service (one car width only) for qualified residents who are over 60 years of age or have a disability. A windrow is the pile of snow left at the bottom of a driveway after the snowplow has cleared the road.

To qualify for the program, **you must first apply for it** by completing an application form available on Markham's website under "Winter Road Services." I have long championed shrinking what I call the "windrow window" from eight hours after the street is plowed to four and I am pleased to share that this service enhancement has been made beginning this winter season.

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

Winter Maintenance Snow Clearing

With winter soon upon us I want to remind everyone of the city's snow clearing protocols.

Arterial roads (like Yonge Street, Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street) that carry large volumes of traffic are salted and/or plowed until pavement is bare 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the winter season.

Primary roads (like John Street, Green Lane, Royal Orchard Blvd., Henderson Avenue, Romfield Circuit, Willowbrook Road, Laureleaf Road, Huntington Park Drive, Summerdale Drive, Simonston Blvd. etc.) distribute traffic to both city and York Region arterial roads and are maintained in the same way.

Secondary roads distribute traffic onto primary roads. They include roads with extreme hills, curves and access points and are salted and/or plowed as required until the centre width of the pavement is bare 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., 7 days per week throughout the winter season.

Local roads (like the one I live on) generally carry very low volumes of traffic and are plowed when snow accumulations reach or exceed 7.5 centimetres. If the snowfall is continuing, plowing will begin once snowfall ceases or accumulations exceed 12 centimetres. Normal plowing operations may take approximately 16 hours. Snow plowing will continue until all local roads are completed.

During snowstorms, Markham's Winter Maintenance App - available on the city's website - shows the progress of road and sidewalk plows across the city as we work hard and fast to keep Markham moving.

MDE Announces World's Largest Wastewater Energy Transfer Project

Markham District Energy Inc. is a thermal energy utility owned by the City of Markham. Its core business is the supply of heating and cooling energy to residential and commercial customers for space conditioning and institutional processes. Its dividends - payable to the city - serve to help keep property taxes low.

In July I was proud, as MDEI Board Chair, to be on hand to break ground

on the world's largest wastewater energy transfer (WET) project at the company's Low Carbon Energy Centre on Warden Avenue.

This cutting-edge solution will extract thermal energy from wastewater running nearby through the Region of York's main trunk sewer. Doing so will replace older natural gas-based technologies and contribute to the company's goal to advance low carbon projects that are on track to reduce GHG emissions by 35K tonnes by 2030 and achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2050.

The WET project is expected to be operational in 2026.

MDEI currently provides reliable, efficient, and cost-competitive energy services to 215 commercial, residential, and institutional buildings in Markham that encompass more than 1,114,837 m² (12M sq. ft.) of indoor space. As the Thornhill Councillor and Board Chair, I am pushing hard in negotiations with a landowner to extend MDEI's reach to Thornhill's Langstaff Gateway for the benefit of current and future generations of residents.



With Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, Mayor Scarpitti and Councillors McAlpine, Lee, Collucci, Rea, Lau and Keyes

Proposed New Development: Shops on Steeles & 404

The city is in receipt of Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications from Shoppes on Steeles Limited Partnership to redevelop the northeast corner of Steeles Avenue East and Don Mills Road known municipally as 2880 to 2930 Steeles Avenue East.

The applications would facilitate a mixed-use community focused on three precincts across the 7.18-hectare (17.75-acre) site that includes 7,884 m² (85,000 sq.ft.) at-grade commercial space, a 0.97-hectare (2.4-acre) central

park, and residential condominiums consisting of 13 towers ranging in height from 8 to 59-stories, 5,049 units, and two levels of underground parking for 4,367 vehicles. The Floor Space Index (FSI) is 5.51.*

If the applications are approved, the build-out would occur in three distinct phases from west to east across the site and take nearly 30-years to be complete. The landowner has indicated the existing Food Basics grocery store will remain operational until such time as the new commercial space has been constructed and will then relocate to it.

I appreciate this comes as surprising news for the community. This is part of a larger trend of similar mixed-use development projects on parcels of land currently occupied by suburban shopping centres across the GTHA. For instance, there are redevelopment projects for Thornhill Square, 10 Royal Orchard Blvd./8051 Yonge Street, 8190-8200 Bayview Avenue, Centrepoint Mall, Promenade Mall, Fairview Mall and Markville either planned or already underway.

We are at the very beginning of the planning process and there will be opportunities for Ward 1 residents to comment on what is being proposed.

At time of writing a Statutory Public Meeting on this application was held November 5. The purpose of this meeting is to receive feedback from members of the public on the proposal submitted. No decision has been made on this application. I will host a Community Information Meeting with the details still to be determined.

For more information on this application, please contact Nusrat Omer, Senior Planner at the City of Markham at nomer@markham.ca. The files can also be viewed on my website markhamward1.ca.

*The Floor Space Index (FSI) calculation is derived from the total floor area of the buildings divided by the area of the property. It is an indicator of density.

What's past is prologue...

Former City of Toronto Councillor John Filion represented Ward 18 in Willowdale - immediately south of Thornhill - for 31 years from 1991.

While he was a little difficult to track down now that he's (mostly) retired and out of politics, John and I met in the summer for a relaxed and lengthy discussion.

Thornhill is now beginning to experience on account of the Yonge North Subway Extension the same as what Willowdale has for the last three decades. John knows better than anyone what to expect; Yonge Street runs through the centre of Ward 18.

We covered a whole host of issues - some technical, some theoretical, and some political - concerning Toronto and Markham residents and what the latter especially can expect from all the change that is either underway or coming to Thornhill.

The questions, I'd like to think, were good and well-considered. The answers: priceless. I'm grateful John took the time to lend me his ear and give me the very best and candid advice I could expect from his years of dedicated public service.

As an aside...if you have an interest in local and Ontario politics - as I do - John wrote an insightful and entertaining book in 2015 based on his firsthand experiences with Rob and Doug Ford. The Only Average Guy is available wherever great books are sold.



With John in August

Development Update: 10 Royal Orchard & 8051 Yonge Street

I held a Community Information Meeting September 16 on Greenpark's application. A recording of the meeting can be found on markhamward1.ca. At the October 1 meeting of Council's Development Services Committee my motion to refer the application back to the applicant and the city's Planning staff for more work and adjustment was passed unanimously.

Yonge North Subway Extension Community Office

Metrolinx has opened a store-front office at 295 High Tech Road in Richmond Hill as a means of extending their community outreach.

In addition to hosting information sessions, community meetings and

individual meetings by appointment, the office includes a Sound Lab which aims to provide residents with a simulation of noise and vibration once the subway is in service.

Members of the Royal Orchard Ratepayers Association are necessarily concerned about the level of noise and vibration from the subway trains that will travel under and nearby homes and other buildings in the community. They have conducted extensive research of their own and consulted with experts and have concerns with the methodology used to simulate the Sound Lab's noise and vibration. These have been raised with Metrolinx.

Visitors can drop-in at the Community Office Tuesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individual appointments can be scheduled online from the Events tab on Metrolinx's Yonge North Subway Extension home page.

Questions related to the YNSE project can be sent to yorkregion@metrolinx.com



The Community Office

Notable Events in Thornhill and Markham

I had the pleasure over the past several months to represent our community at some local events and others across our city.

EJ Sand Public School

The Grand Opening of the new school took place in May, and we were joined by decedents of the school's namesake, past and current teachers and staff, and the Minister of Education.



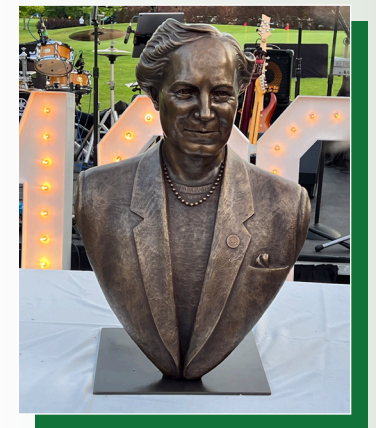
Sara Corning Monument

A monument in honour of Sara Corning was unveiled in the Forest of Hope in Ward 2's Ashton Meadows Park. Sara, a nurse born in Nova Scotia in 1872, played an important role in rescuing Armenian and Greek orphans from a genocide.



Thornhill's Ladies' Golf Club 100th Anniversary

Founded in 1924 by Ada Mackenzie, an entrepreneur, championship golfer, and mentor, the Club celebrated its centenary in July. It is North America's only remaining private golf club established by women for women.



Ward 7 Community BBQ

I was pleased to join my Ward 7 friend and colleague Councillor Juanita Nathan and others for a community BBQ held in Markham's Aaniin Park.

