



# Around the Ward in 80...Words

Updates on previous Ward 1 News items...

## Bishops Cross Plaza at 2300 John Street

Primont Properties appealed their application to the Ontario Land Tribunal on April 4, 2025. Primont, CN Rail and the City of Markham participated last year in informal without prejudice meetings to attempt to scope the items at issue, and to identify potential solutions. Those meetings were inconclusive. A four-week OLT Hearing is scheduled to begin June 1, 2026.

## 16 John Street Demolition

After extensive discussion, review of structural reports and input from accredited experts, Markham's Heritage committee recommended support of the demolition request subject to certain conditions: the preparation of measured drawings to be used in the replication of the house in the same general location, and re-use of any salvageable building materials from the original structure in the replication. Markham Council approved the request on December 16, 2025.

## 7115 Yonge Street and 8, 10, 12, 14 Grandview Avenue

In November 2025 the Ontario Land Tribunal approved Terrabona's revised proposal which includes two towers, one at 59-storeys (close to Yonge Street) and another of 51-storeys on Grandview Avenue, with both separated by a 7-storey podium. However, the city received a Notice of Receivership for these properties on December 10, 2025. The Receiver intends to market and sell the property.

## 16 to 30 Glen Cameron Road

Sunfield Glen Cameron Development LP appealed their applications for Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments to facilitate a 55-storey residential tower with a 4-storey podium that steps up to an 8-storey element to the Ontario Land Tribunal on September 29, 2025. A 12-day hearing is scheduled to begin May 19, 2026.

## Thornhill Square, 300 John Street

The owner, Hazelview Investments Inc., placed the property for sale in September 2024. Since there is still no agreement between Hazelview and the City of Markham on sanitary servicing requirements, the holding provision issued by the Ontario Land Tribunal remains in place. No construction can begin until the provision is lifted.

## 36-48 Steeles Avenue East and 37-49 Highland Park Boulevard

In May 2024 the Ontario Land Tribunal approved Zonix's application to construct two towers, one at 44-storeys and another at 40 on a six-storey podium along Steeles Avenue with a 1,829 m2 (0.45-acre) public park along the southerly side of Highland Park Blvd. In August 2025 the property was listed for sale.

## Octagon Restaurant / Farmers Market Development Application

The City has learned that the agreement to purchase the property has been terminated. In December 2025, the OLT directed the appellant to provide a status of the appeal and ownership. There was no response. In February 2026 the Ontario Land Tribunal advised that it would enforce its Rule 15.4 - Dismissal of Proceeding without a Hearing if it did not hear from the appellant. To date, there has been no activity and it is anticipated that the OLT will issue a formal Dismissal Order shortly.

## Update: Royal Orchard Phase 4C Flood Control Work

The final (currently planned) phase of storm sewer system improvements to increase capacity and reduce the risk of flooding in Thornhill was delayed on account of the Yonge Corridor Secondary Plan study. City staff anticipate the flood control work will recommence in 2028.

SPRING / SUMMER 2026

# WARD 1 NEWS



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

Dear Residents,

I believe that engaged citizens working together can accomplish extraordinary things.

In March, I met with 11 representatives from the executives of five Thornhill resident associations across Ward 1. We discussed a number of issues, including automated speed enforcement cameras, snow plowing, and how provincial legislation is impacting Markham's ability to properly manage growth.

While I also believe public officials strive to serve their communities well — and as Abraham Lincoln said, "You can never please all of the people all of the time" — recent provincial actions, including the increased use of Minister's Zoning Orders, limited consultation with municipalities, and reduced legislative debate, raise important concerns about democratic processes.

Despite these challenges, the meeting proved to be both stimulating and productive while offering participants an opportunity to connect and share best practices.

Thank you to the **Grandview Area Residents Association** for organizing the meeting. I look forward to continuing this important dialogue in the months ahead.

To keep up-to-date on items of interest to Ward 1 residents I encourage you to visit my website [www.markhamward1.ca](http://www.markhamward1.ca).

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.

Please visit my website [www.markhamward1.ca](http://www.markhamward1.ca) for information of interest, including a calendar of events, to Thornhill residents.

*Note: The city's "Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy" prohibits members of Council from distributing newsletters (printed and/or electronic) and from hosting community information meetings during the municipal election period, May 1 to October 26, 2026.*



At the meeting

## New President & CEO of Markham District Energy: Carmine Marcello

In December 2025 I was pleased, as MDEI Board Chair, to join the Board of Directors in announcing the appointment of Carmine Marcello as the new President and CEO of Markham District Energy Inc.

Carm brings extensive experience in the energy sector, including his tenure as President and CEO of Hydro One, where he led Ontario's largest electricity

utility through significant regulatory and financial transformation in preparation for its successful initial public offering. He has advised governments and clean energy developers globally on structuring joint ventures, attracting investment, and building business models aligned with net-zero objectives.

MDEI 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.

Amid changing market conditions, the company is at an inflection point requiring thoughtful assessment and strategic decisions. We are fortunate to have Carm at the helm.

You can read the announcement on the city's website here: [www.markham.ca/about-city-markham/news/news-releases/carmine-marcello-appointed-president-ceo-of-markham-district-energy](http://www.markham.ca/about-city-markham/news/news-releases/carmine-marcello-appointed-president-ceo-of-markham-district-energy)



### 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](mailto:customerservice@markham.ca).



@KeithIrish1 **Keeping you Informed & Connected: MarkhamWard1.ca**

@keith.irish This website, [markhamward1.ca](http://markhamward1.ca), brings Ward 1 Thornhill residents a wealth of local information and news. Visit often and keep up-to-date!

@keith.irish Check out "Keith's Notebook" on [markhamward1.ca](http://markhamward1.ca) (which includes a story on coyotes) and "Ward 1 Talk" on YouTube for even more information on topics of interest to Ward 1 Thornhill residents.



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

## 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](tel:905-477-5530) or [customerservice@markham.ca](mailto: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.

## Markham's 2026 Budget

Markham Council approved the city's 2026 Budget of \$677.9M on October 31, 2025. It includes a 3.9 per cent property tax rate increase. For the average home in Markham this represents an increase of \$54.99 on the city portion of the tax bill.

For more detailed information please visit: [markham.ca/Budget](http://markham.ca/Budget)

## Thornhill Park Naming: George McCullagh

Most of our Thornhill neighbourhoods are mature and well-established with limited opportunities to name new parks. That is why I am especially pleased to announce the naming of "George McCullagh Park" at **345 Royal Orchard Blvd.** next to the newly completed "Royal Bayview" condominiums.

George McCullagh, a Markham-Thornhill resident, was a wealthy financier and influential newspaper owner. In the mid-1930s he purchased 200-acres of land in what is now the Bayview/John area of Thornhill. Construction of his iconic home at 7750 Bayview Avenue (home to the Shouldice Hospital since 1953) began soon after. It eventually cost \$500K to construct, equivalent to \$11M today.

I am proud of the City of Markham's 2022 acquisition of the 9-hectare (22.4-acre) Shouldice property which protects this historic site while opening it as public parkland for current and future generations to enjoy.

To learn more, I encourage you to read my review of McCullagh's biography here: [markhamward1.ca/big-men-feared-thornhills-george-mccullagh](http://markhamward1.ca/big-men-feared-thornhills-george-mccullagh)



Under construction in 1937

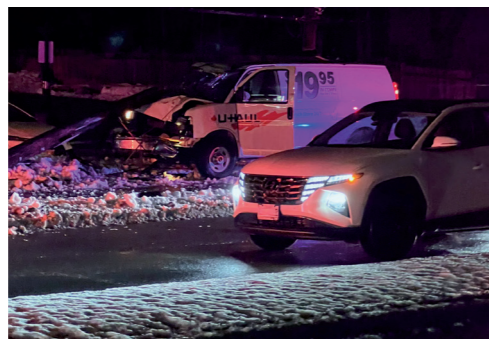


Looking south toward John Street, circa 1950

## Safe Driving During Power Outages

We are fortunate that the number of significant power outages in Thornhill are relatively few. However, on December 23, 2025 a single vehicle accident on John Street just east of Yonge Street knocked out power to approximately 5,000 residential and business customers for six hours.

When traffic lights are not working (due to a power outage, storm, or accident), intersections become much more dangerous. If all signal lights are dark or flashing improperly...



The accident; gratefully there were no injuries

Treat the intersection as you would a four-way stop.

- Come to a complete stop at the stop line or before the crosswalk.
- Look in all directions (left, right, straight, and be sure to watch out for pedestrians)
- Proceed in order of arrival.
- If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first.
- If turning left, yield to oncoming traffic going straight or turning right.

My thanks to Thornhill resident WZ for this helpful suggestion.

## Impact of Bill 60 on Thornhill

The Ontario Government's Bill 60 – the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act – became law on November 27, 2025. The legislation affects housing, planning approvals, municipal powers, and tenancy rules across the province.

While the city's professional Planning staff are still working through how it will impact us here in Markham we do know that it is intended to streamline and speed up approvals for housing and infrastructure projects.

As I digest the changes, I cannot help being reminded of the lyrics to the song "Let's Face the Music and Dance." As it relates to local land use planning, vision and policy guidance, as well as public engagement there may indeed as the song goes be "trouble ahead and teardrops to shed."

In addition to standardizing municipal Official Plans across the province the legislation limits the inclusion of detailed development standards (such as specific building heights, lot sizes, etc.) in those plans as well as site-specific secondary plans.

Consequently, **Planning staff have suspended all work on the Yonge Corridor Secondary Plan** save and except those critical aspects related to infrastructure. The legislation will also very likely have an impact on implementation of the final outcomes of **the Bayview/John Visioning Exercise** currently underway. Nonetheless, I have asked staff to continue the visioning work through to its conclusion.

*At time of writing...* I will share details of the final Bayview/John public consultation session to review staff recommendations when more is known.

## Did You Know...

That the Village of Thornhill was once home to many members of Canada's Group of Seven?

The Group was a collective of Canadian landscape painters active between 1920 and 1933. They became famous for creating bold, modern paintings of Canada and are considered foundational to our country's art scene.

The City of Markham is paying tribute to them and their **connection to Thornhill** with a series of banners along Yonge Street in the Heritage District. Some of the licensed images depict local scenes. I hope you enjoy them.



## Remembering former Thornhill Councillor Tom Gove

It is with sadness that I share news of the recent passing of former Councillor Tom Gove at the age of 87.

Tom served as **Thornhill Councillor** for Ward 7 (at the time) from 1976 to 1982 and was a devoted representative for the people he served. He cared deeply about Markham and continued to contribute positively to municipal issues and community life for many years following his time in elected office. He was also active with the Thornhill Seniors Club and his contributions led to it achieving official status in 2003.

On a personal note, Tom introduced himself to me during my 2018 campaign and he quickly became a good friend and strong supporter always ready to lend an ear and offer great advice. Thornhill has lost a wonderful man, public servant and volunteer. I extend my condolences to his family, friends and all who had the pleasure to know him.

## Metrolinx Updates

My office regularly receives updates and construction notices from Metrolinx as it prepares to begin tunnelling the Yonge North Subway Extension. For your convenience they are posted to my website [markhamward1.ca](http://markhamward1.ca).

On August 6, 2025 the Ontario government and Metrolinx announced that North End Connectors – a consortium of three companies (Aecon, FCC Construcción and Ghella) – has been awarded the \$1.4B contract to design and construct approximately 6.3 kilometres of tunnels for the subway extension. **Tunnelling from Langstaff south is expected to begin in the first half of 2027.**

If you would like to receive information directly from Metrolinx please visit: [www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/yonge-north-subway-extension](http://www.metrolinx.com/en/projects-and-programs/yonge-north-subway-extension).

## EJ Sand Public School: Improving Pedestrian and Vehicle Safety

I am working closely with representatives of the EJ Sand Parent Council, school administration and the city's Traffic Engineers as we seek solutions to improve the safety of students and their parents and caregivers, particularly during daily student drop-off and pick-up at the school.

We had a solutions-focussed meeting in January and city staff is working, along with the YRDSB's Active School Travel team, on options for further study and analysis that can be implemented to make things safer for everyone. I am especially grateful for the ideas brought forward by the Parent Council.

In the meantime, I urge motorists and pedestrians alike to be especially cautious near all our schools.

For more information, please contact Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation at [Eric.Chan@markham.ca](mailto:Eric.Chan@markham.ca)

## New Vertical Traffic Calming Measures: Speed Cushions

I am pleased to share that in March Markham Council lifted the 2010 Council moratorium on vertical traffic calming measures to **now permit the installation of speed cushion treatments** on some roads across the city.

A speed cushion is a series of raised segments placed across the road with gaps between them that allow emergency vehicles and buses to pass without the need to slow down.

The installation of the cushions will be driven (pardon the pun) by a thorough traffic analysis, operational and budget considerations, and public consultation.

## Community Blue Boxes Discontinued

Further to my last newsletter...the "Shopping Cart Theory" is a simple idea about personal responsibility and character. It highlights doing the right thing even when there's no enforcement, reward, or anyone watching.

Please don't drop unwanted mail or flyers on the ground. Take them home and place them in your blue box for recycling.

Canada Post is responsible for maintaining community mailboxes; any **concerns related to mail or litter at these locations should be reported directly to Canada Post at: 1-866-607-6301** [www.canadapost.ca/support](http://www.canadapost.ca/support)

If you wish to stop receiving flyers, consider signing up for Canada Post's Consumers' Choice program: [canadapost.ca/ConsumersChoice](http://canadapost.ca/ConsumersChoice)

For **curbside** Blue Box recycling issues, contact Miller Waste: **1-855-752-3762** [area10@millerwaste.ca](mailto:area10@millerwaste.ca)

To learn more about the new Blue Box program, visit [markham.ca/Recycling](http://markham.ca/Recycling)



Markham ugly

## York Regional Police Community Safety Data Portal

The YRP Community Safety Data Portal is an interactive online tool that **lets residents view and explore local safety and crime information** across York Region's nine municipalities, including Markham.

The portal helps residents, community groups, and local leaders stay informed about public safety by supporting better decision-making, awareness of crime issues, and collaboration with police.

It can be viewed here: [community-safety-portal-datayrp.hub.arcgis.com](http://community-safety-portal-datayrp.hub.arcgis.com)