

South Yonge Street



The Yonge Street corridor has been identified as a high priority for future investment in office, retail and residential development. The area from Steeles Avenue to Bantry Avenue in Richmond Hill called "South Yonge Street" by York Region, will become a place that

people will travel to, rather than travel through.

York Region is leading a Streetscape Master Plan focused on revitalizing South Yonge Street with a bold vision that will support the future growth, and also transform Yonge Street into a vibrant, attractive world class street.

The Master Plan integrates years of work and studies that have been undertaken along Yonge Street. The Plan will set guidelines for urban design on Yonge Street to celebrate its cultural heritage, character and historical significance.

Please plan to attend the public meeting:

Thursday, September 15: 7 to 9 pm
Thornhill Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall
271 Centre Street, Thornhill

For more information, please contact:
Ms. Carmen Hui, Streetscape Program Manager
905-830-4444, x 5272 or carmen.hui@York.ca.

Annswell Park Adoption



Congratulations to the 1st Thornhill Scouts on the recent adoption of Annswell Park! The Scouts initiated a very successful clean up and their participation in the Adopt-A-Park program is very appreciated. The Adopt-a-Park program encourages individual residents, families and businesses, schools and community

groups to become actively involved in their local green spaces. The program promotes community pride through the clean up of litter and community plantings in our local parks. If you would like to become involved, please contact me.



Upcoming Events

Heintzman House

Auxiliary Craft Show and Sale

Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13: 10 am to 5 pm
\$2 admission. Tea Room. Funds raised help refurbish the House.

"Heartbeats Around the World" 6th Annual Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 8: 7:30 to 9 pm

Spend the evening in the beautiful Heintzman House listening to festive music featuring local artists Menaka Raman-Wilms and Christiane Ermel. All proceeds will go to Free the Children to help build a primary school in Africa. Please call 905-889-3273 for more information.

1st Thornhill Scouts

If your son or daughter is interested in Scouts, or if you would like to be a leader, stop by Thornhill United Church on Wednesday September 7, between 7 and 8 pm. For more information, please call Bernadette Porasz (416) 733-7522.

Milliken Childrens Festival

Saturday, September 10: 10 am to 6 pm

Bring the family and enjoy free admission, activities and entertainment. Rain or Shine. Town of Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd, www.millikenchildrensfestival.ca

Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPOHT) Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, November 30: 7:15 pm refreshments, 7:30 meeting, Heintzman House.

Terry Fox Run

Sunday, September 18: 9 am to 4:30 pm

"A single dream. A world of hope." Get some exercise while helping this worthwhile cause! Official start time is 9 am. Meet at Thornlea Secondary School, 8075 Bayview Avenue. Visit www.terryfoxrun.org

Thornhill Seniors Centre

Drop by for a visit! Membership season starts this September. Enjoy the many popular instructor-led events, lunches, speaker series, art and other interest groups, and terrific travel/theatre opportunities. For more information, please call 905-944-3781.

Thornhill Wheat Sheaf Festival

Saturday, September 17: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Spend time with your family and friends at this well-loved community event. For more information visit www.thornhillhistoric.org



"Keeping in Touch" Fall 2011



Dear Resident

Autumn is almost here, children are back to school, and soon the leaves will begin to display their beautiful colours. I hope you feel re-energized with the transition into Fall and can take some time to enjoy the season.

Everyone is very excited about the return of the Thornhill Village Festival, and I am really looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 17. You can find me on Colborne Street at the Town's Animal Care Booth and Heintzman House Booth.

If you have an issue of local concern, please feel free to contact me at 905-479-7747 or vburke@markham.ca

Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3

Yours truly,

Valerie
Burke

Councillor, Ward 1
Town of Markham

**Markham is a
Character Community**

"Carry out a random act of kindness ... someone somewhere might do the same for you."

The Late Princess Diana

Accessibility



The Markham Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Council are committed to ensuring that opportunity exists for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

The newly renovated Thornhill Community Centre is now completely accessible. There have also been other improvements such as the accommodation of more accessible parking spaces in the Thornhill Square Shopping Centre. The installation of new automatic door openers at the northeast entrance of the mall will be completed by the end of the year.

Recently, parking control staff conducted a two-week Markham-wide review of the proper use of accessible parking spaces. By-Law officers issued 31 accessible parking violations and more than 100 fire route violations and warnings.

Markham is continually working within the community to ensure that all services and programs are more accessible for people with disabilities. To learn more about Markham's accessibility strategy, please visit www.markham.ca or contact Warren Rupnarain, Accessibility Coordinator, at 905-477-7000 x3542, or wrrupnarain@markham.ca.

Speed Display Board



In an effort to educate the public about excessive speeding, the Town of Markham has implemented a Speed Display Board program. This program involves the rotation of 8 display boards across Markham on a quarterly basis with 32 candidate streets per year. The display boards advise drivers of how fast they are traveling, while also collecting essential traffic data. All candidate streets are identified and filtered using a comprehensive point-ranking system.

Criteria considered include vehicle operating speeds, collision frequency, residential frontage, proximity to schools/parks, and provision of sidewalks.

Since the program was initiated in 2010, candidate streets have experienced a decrease in vehicle speeds between 20-30% when provided with the display boards. Residents have commented that there is a noticeable reduction in speeding. With the cooperation of York Region Police, it is our intent that the program will have a positive impact in improving driver behaviour. The display board has been placed on John Street, Elgin Street, Laureleaf Road, and Grandview Ave. The unit was deployed to Romfield Circuit in early July and will be relocated to Dudley Avenue in October.

Markham's Safe Streets Strategy incorporates the 3E's of traffic safety: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. The least expensive and most effective long-term solution is Education.

Valerie Burke, Councillor Ward 1, Town of Markham

Protecting Migratory Birds



Millions of birds die annually across North America as a result of collisions with windows, and Markham is the first municipality in Canada to successfully address this issue.

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) estimated that over 100 birds a year collided with the town-owned building at 8100 Warden Avenue. Two years ago, a window film was applied to the glass solarium and mirrored windows. The window application has put a stop to the bird collisions.

Markham Council recently approved window treatments to the Civic Centre. Improvements in window film design permit greater flexibility in the placement of the film thereby making it much more cost-effective.

Last Spring, FLAP Executive Director Michael Mesure honoured Markham with a Certificate of Bird-Friendliness which recognizes the Town for its outstanding contribution to urban wildlife sustainability. FLAP is working with Markham to implement the Greenprint Sustainability Plan. The Greenprint, which will incorporate bird-friendly development guidelines, will have major environmental implications. It will provide an opportunity to engage the corporate community in wildlife protection.

Flood Protection



The *West Thornhill Stormwater Flood Remediation Study* was presented at public information meetings. In the Spring of 2010 Council recommended the 100-year storm level of protection. Based on public feedback, the approval agency (Ontario Ministry of the Environment) requested additional consultation and further documentation of the alternative

selection process. An updated study report including the same 100-year level of protection was reissued in November 2010 outlining the level of protection, phasing, estimated costs and integration with other service improvements and funding sources.

Council and Staff are awaiting approval from the Ministry before proceeding further. The implementation of the initial phase of this project could begin in early 2012 as a budget of \$2 million has already been approved by Markham Council. Later this year, Council will make a decision with respect to additional funding for this project. For more information, contact Robert Muir, Senior Stormwater/Environmental Engineer, 905-477-7000 x2894 or rmuir@markham.ca

Tel: 905-479-7747

378 Steeles Avenue



The Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism has revised its original rezoning and site plan applications to permit a place of worship at 378 Steeles Avenue, but the Bayview Glen community is still very concerned about the impacts to the neighbourhood.

The proposed place of worship is to accommodate the Fung Loy Kok Institute, a registered religious charitable organization and the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada, a non-religious registered charitable organization. Residents believe that the primary activity will be tai chi exercise classes offered by the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada, not religious worship.

The Fung Loy Kok Institute plans to demolish the existing residential home, and construct a new building. The new eight-metre high building would be elevated by supports and cantilevered to accommodate vehicular access and parking underneath. A covered open-air elevated terrace would be located on the east side. The Bayview Glen community would prefer the site to remain residential. A final recommendation will be brought forward to the Development Services Committee, September 13, 2011.

Clothing Drop Boxes



With the approach of a new season, many of us are busy cleaning out our homes and finding lots of items which someone else may need. Most residents donate these used items to local charities rather than throwing them in the garbage. Before you drop them off in a local collection bin, there are some things that you should know. Many boxes are run by for-profit organizations that are making millions of dollars a year by taking advantage of your kind generosity. Legitimate charities will clearly mark their boxes.

Before donating your used clothing items, please check that you are making your donation to a charity.

Non-Charity Boxes located on municipal property will be removed by the By-Law Department. Non-charity boxes located on private properties such as a mall, can be ordered removed by the property owner. I would like to thank the Thornhill Square plaza for removing all eight unsightly boxes from the north side of the parking lot along Green Lane.

Markham has partnered with Goodwill and the Salvation Army to recycle household goods. The Thornhill Community Recycling Depot has a Goodwill trailer where you can donate used items in Markham with peace of mind.

email: vburke@markham.ca