

"Markham – We Love our Pets" Calendar



My dog Sabrina
1997-2009

Last year's calendar was such a success that the Town's volunteer Animal Care Committee is producing a 2011 calendar, featuring your pets. Enter your special pets and support this worthy cause. All pets will appear in the calendar. The Committee aims to raise awareness about the importance of responsible pet care, spaying/neutering and adoption of homeless pets. Details and a downloadable entry form will be available after April 1 at www.markham.ca or animalcare@markham.ca.

Adopt-A-Park and Litter Clean-Ups

Please visit www.markham.ca under "Celebrate Our Environment"

Grandview Park Clean-up

- Saturday, May 1: 10 am to 12 noon. Please join the Grandview Area Residents Association. Grandview woodlot restoration is ongoing (spring and fall), weather and time permitting. For more information, please contact Jane McCulloch 905-881-5273, je_mcculloch@hotmail.com.

Pomona Mills Park Clean-up & Planting

- **Clean-up:** Sunday, April 25: 10 am to noon
Pomona Mills Meadow Planting: Saturday, May 1: 10 am to noon. Please join the Pomona Mills Park Conservationists. For more information, contact Barbi Lazarus: 416-551-0846, palapi@rogers.com.

Cricklewood Park Clean-up

- Please help Cricklewood Residents. Refer to www.markham.ca under "Celebrate Our Environment" for date.

Charlie Clifford Park Invasive Plant Awareness Day

- Saturday, May 15: 10 am to noon
Join the North American Native plant society members at 53 Sprucewood Drive, north of Proctor Avenue for a demonstration of invasive plants and some exercise to remove them.

Galleria Supermarket's Local Clean-up

- See store for details. Contact Bob Bak: 905-738-5675 or Peter Shin: 416-993-8525.

Markham Twenty Minute Makeover

- Friday, April 23rd. If everyone would take just 20 minutes to help pick up litter, think of how beautiful our community would look!

Many thanks to all of you wonderful residents who pick up litter on your daily walks in the parks! If you would like to adopt a park, I would be happy to assist you.



Upcoming Events

Heintzman House

Invitational Art Show & Sale

Saturday April 24: 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday April 25: 10 am to 5 pm

Boutique & Jewellery Sale

Saturday May 1: 10 am to 5 pm

Heintzman House Auxiliary: \$2.00 entrance fee – Great Mothers' Day Gifts!
For more information, call 905-889-7980 or visit www.hhouse.ca.

Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society

Monthly Guest Speakers every third Wednesday, Thornhill Community Centre.

Plant Sale

Saturday May 8 & Saturday September 11, 9 am to 1 pm: Yonge and Centre Streets.

Thornhill Lions

Spring Dinner Dance & Silent Auction

Friday, April 30, 6:30 pm: Le Parc, Leslie Street

Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks Sales

Thornhill Community Centre Parking Lot

Thornhill Seniors Centre

Enjoy the Fashion Show and yearly Volunteer Luncheon to show appreciation to our many tireless and indispensable volunteers. The Travel Desk has an array of day/theatre and other trips; fitness classes and social events continue to be enjoyed. New members are always welcome. For more information, call 905-944-3781.

Cantabile Chorale of York Region

Friday, April 2, 7:30 pm: Thornhill United Church, 25 Elgin Street

The Rose of Calvary. Good Friday charity benefit concert of contemporary sacred choral works by Joseph Martin and Karl Jenkins. Robert Richardson, conductor, with guest choristers, musicians and narrator. For more information, call 905-731-8318.

Star Gazing Evening

Thursday, April 22, 8:30 pm: Pomona Mills Meadow, east of St. Volodymyr's Church, 15 Church Lane. Telescopes will be available to view the Moon's mountains, craters and the famous ringed planet Saturn. A local astronomer with a "sky pointer" will be on hand to trace out constellations. Dress warmly! In case of inclement or overcast conditions, this event will be rescheduled to the following first clear evening. For more information, contact Jim Laframboise 905-889-1073. Visit www.thornhillwardone.com on the day for up-to-date confirmations.

Ward One South Thornhill Residents AGM

Date to be determined. Visit www.thornhillwardone.com



"Keeping in Touch"
Spring 2010



Dear Resident

Welcome Spring!

I would like to wish you and your family a very pleasant Spring. I hope you have the opportunity to spend some time enjoying the warmer weather. Many of us are still talking about the excitement of the recent Winter Olympics and the pride it brought to all Canadians. Thousands of people enjoyed an experience of a lifetime watching the Olympic Flame arrive at the Town of Markham and move along Yonge Street in Thornhill. As we look forward to celebrating Canada Day the spirit of the Olympics will continue to thrive. We have so much to be thankful for living in such a wonderful community and such a great country as Canada.

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

Yours truly,

Valerie
Burke

Councillor, Ward 1
Town of Markham

**Markham is a
Character Community**

"Every time you see another person – you see another opportunity to make someone's day brighter." Unknown

Yonge Subway Extension



Funding has yet to be granted by the Provincial and Federal Governments for the Yonge Subway extension from Finch to Hwy 7. But the environmental assessment has been unconditionally approved under Ontario's new streamlined transit project assessment process and this project remains a priority for Metrolinx.

The Toronto Transit Commission, in partnership with The Regional

Municipality of York, York Region Rapid Transit Corporation and the City of Toronto, has awarded a conceptual design contract to the joint venture of McCormick Rankin Corporation and Hatch Mott MacDonald. This detailed technical and engineering work builds on existing information to date and provides a stronger foundation for moving the project forward. Work on this study should be completed by the end of this year. For more information visit www.vivanext.com or contact the Rapid Transit office at 905-886-6767.

Heintzman House



Thornhill's Heintzman House is one of the oldest (circa 1817) and most beautiful buildings in Markham. Over the years, personal touches were added by many prominent citizens such as United Empire Loyalist Anthony Hollingshead, Colonel Crookshank, Sam Francis and Charles Heintzman of the Heintzman Piano

Company. Despite its formidable heritage, the Heintzman House was almost demolished in the 1960s by developers. Thankfully, a group of local residents saved this precious building and the property was acquired by the Town of Markham in 1966.

Now managed by passionate and hard-working volunteers, this much-loved historic landmark continues to play host to special events such as weddings, anniversary parties, unique corporate functions and several fun community events. To book your next event, call 905-889-7980 or visit www.heintzmanhouse.ca.

Building Markham's Future Together

By the year 2031, Markham will be home to 120,000 new residents because of the Province's Places to Grow Act. As a result the Town has been developing a Growth Management Strategy to identify the amount, location, and pace of population and employment growth in Markham to 2031. More than 1,000 people attended a public information meeting held February 16 to get public input on the future of Markham and how we should grow. Recommendations of this Growth Management Strategy will form the basis for a new Official Plan for Markham. In April, Council will make its decision on various options for intensification. For more information, please visit www.markham.ca or www.protectmarkham.cwordpress.com.

York Farmers Market



For more than fifty years, Thornhill residents have enjoyed this indoor market featuring fresh produce, meat, dairy, honey, candy, coffee and mouth-watering home baked goods. The enclosed environment allows people to experience the ambiance of a traditional farmer's market, filled

with wonderful cooking aromas. Stop in to have a coffee and chat with a neighbour and don't forget to pick up some beautiful fresh cut flowers or a potted plant to brighten your Spring. The market is open Thursdays 11 am to 7 pm, Fridays 10 am to 8 pm and Saturdays 8 am to 4 pm.

Thornhill Community Centre and Library Expansion



Thornhill's Community Centre and Library are undergoing a much needed major renovation and expansion to include a dedicated Youth space, increased multi-purpose spaces for general programming, accessibility upgrades and opportunities for increased Seniors programs. The library will be refreshed and updated with new self-service technologies, additional study room facilities, an expanded computer lab and an improvement to the children's area. The work is expected to be completed by March 2011. During the renovation, the Thornhill Village Library has increased hours of operation. Visit www.markham.ca for details.

Flood Protection



The **West Thornhill Stormwater Flood Remediation Study** was presented at public information meetings last year and options to increase the community's protection against basement and roadway flooding were highlighted.

Council has recommended the 100-year storm level of protection. Funding options and an implementation plan will be presented to Council in May.

The Grandview area pilot program, "Every Downspout Counts," which has helped residents disconnect roof downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer, has demonstrated a reduction in the flow of storm water directed into the sanitary sewer.

Storm water can find its way into sanitary sewers through various cracks and leaks, so an inflow and infiltration reduction strategy has been implemented. This would significantly reduce the amount of storm water entering sanitary sewers in flood-prone areas. Council has requested funding from the Federal and Provincial governments under the Building Canada Fund stimulus grant program for a demonstration project to reline sanitary sewer connections in West Thornhill.

Residents often ask how they can help prevent flooding. It is important to keep your catch basin or road ditch clear of grass and leaves, ensure your landscaper keeps grass and leaves off the street, plant more trees and shrubs, participate in local tree planting initiatives, disconnect your downspout, install permeable pavers, avoid increased pavement and install a rain barrel.

Waterworks Improvements in Thornhill Area this Summer

As part of Waterworks Department's on-going service improvement program, the following works will be carried out along Clark Avenue.

Watermain Replacement – from Yonge Street to Sprucewood Drive
Sanitary Sewer – from Dudley Avenue to Henderson Avenue

During construction Clark Avenue will be closed for through traffic between Dudley Avenue to Sprucewood Drive from mid May to end of Nov. 2010. For more information, please contact Prathapan Kumar, Acting Manager at 905- 477-7000 x 2989 or pkumar@markham.ca.

Earth Hour



Hundreds of millions of people worldwide participated in Earth Hour last year. Earth Hour promotes the simple action of turning off lights for one hour to deliver a powerful message about the need for action on climate change. On Saturday, March 27, between 8:30 to 9:30 pm, cities around the world will turn off their lights. Markham joins international cities committed to one hour of darkness to raise awareness about climate change. For more information, visit wwf.ca/earthhour.