

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

(An officially registered ratepayers' group within the City of Markham)

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – August 2019

(Published 3x per year)



1/ HELLO NEIGHBOURS !

CONTINUING SUCCESS:

**Your neighbours agree...
this is a group you should belong to!**

AWRA concerns YOU and WHERE YOU LIVE and was set up to represent the best interests of our neighbourhood.

This includes keeping members informed of issues and betterment programs that will impact them, and the meetings and lobbying with the various levels of Government to make changes and improvements. We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council.

We are a not-for-profit group. Your **\$20.00 annual fee** helps immensely in offsetting the administration costs.

We accept Interac e-Transfers through online banking.... sent to awra.thornhill@gmail.com

as well as cheques and cash sent to **AWRA, 18 Innisbrook Cres., Thornhill, On L3T 5B1**

2/ **ANOTHER SUCCESS:** Aileen-Willowbrook Neighbourhood 2019 Picnic:



Our July 14, 2019 community picnic at Windy Hill Park was another huge success.

Between 100 – 150 residents attended. Lots of donated delicious food was brought to be shared. From Chinese delicacies to bbq'd sausage on a bun, with lots of water, Timbits and Tim Hortons coffee !

There were games and contests for the children, and **PRIZES!** And performances too by adults and children.

And of course lots of chatting between old and new neighbours... **"I didn't know you lived on my street..."** was a common thread. We used name tags that had people's first name and their street name... so it was easy to see from a distance, and made it comfortable for shy people to participate.

We were joined by Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath, while our local Councillor Keith Irish sent his regrets as he was traveling on City business. .Much thanks to PanYan and Joan Feng again, and all their volunteer helpers for making this event happen.



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3/ **WORK IN PROGRESS:** Improvement of our parks

AWRA is working to improve our parks' accessibility and utility. The **Windy Hill Park** jungle gym was replaced in January 2019, and it is a beauty!



The kids love it and parents too, because it is now safe!

The McIntosh Perry consultants finally made their recommendations in July on **Maple Valley** and **Valley View Parks**, with various alternatives presented and their costs. The recommendations will then be assessed by City staff and interest groups, then presented to City Council, for budget approval.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS AT FIVE LOCATIONS (WARDS 1, 2, 3 & 8)



Project No.: 103-Q-10

MIP Project Number: 0004-1-1-0005

McINTOSH PERRY



4/ **CONTINUED SUCCESS:** Toxic-air monitoring

AWRA gets things done!

Along with the warmer weather, more neighbours are walking the streets, and sniffing! This active monitoring of the air by the public at Green Lane/Guardsman/Harlech is an effective tool to encouraging Raywal and smaller businesses to keep their air-scrubbers running and in good order.

5/ **ONGOING COMPLAINTS ABOUT HOUSE & LAWN MAINTENANCE:**

What are the downsides of not maintaining the outside of our homes and lawns ?

- long unkempt grass and weeds make your property look a mess, and that will lower your property values and your neighbours' too!
- rodents and other wild animals love long grass... it's easier for them to hide and then attack your home
- grass that isn't watered regularly will burn and die, and that will cost you more in the future to fix up or replace
- your neighbours will complain (to the City) that your weeds are spreading to their lawns, and costing them more money to maintain
- **the City of Markham has bylaws governing regular property maintenance, especially grass... grass height must be kept under 6 inches both on your lawn and any attached City boulevard.** Not doing so can get you fined, and if ignored, the City will do it for you and charge your property tax bill.



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6/ **ANOTHER SUCCESS:** Wild weeds & vegetation at the CN crossing on Green Lane finally cut!



It's been a long haul lobbying for the attention of the appropriate groups at CN and the City... and finally the obnoxious growth overflowing the sidewalks has been cut back.

We've been assured that regular maintenance will occur, and we will continue monitoring for compliance.



7/ **AWARDS for PROPERTY MAINTENANCE – DOING MORE THAN THE RIGHT THING:**

Each year, the Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society visits homes in our neighbourhood and gives awards to those owners who've gone beyond the norm to beautify their properties, and give their neighbours something so beautiful to enjoy. Congratulations to the winners....

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 45 Aileen Rd. | 25 & 29 Carnegie Cres. | 70 Innisbrook Cres. |
| 10, 29, & 66 Lunau Lane | 37 & 39 McKelvey Dr. (1 shared garden) | |
| 14,17, 78, 79, 87 Tamarack Dr. | 73, 79, 80, 199 Willowbrook Rd. | |

For purposes of brevity, only a few are shown here...



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8/ **CLOSED ITEM:** Willowbrook Public School Crosswalk Relocation



There have been multiple requests to relocate the crosswalk for Willowbrook Public School from the corner of Trimble Crt. to directly in front of the school... as the gateway into Thornlea High School is directly across from Willowbrook PS.

However, the City has declined the relocation application for 2 significant reasons...

- the curvature of Willowbrook at that point is too sharp, not giving drivers a long enough site-line and stopping distance to be able to react and slow down or stop.
- the parking lay-by areas in front of Willowbrook PS are frequently filled with waiting vehicles and pickup & dropoff activities just before school starts, and as well at school closing. This presents a hazard for students crossing between vehicles, again blocking their visibility for oncoming Willowbrook traffic, as well as additional lay-by traffic.

9/ **WARNINGS ABOUT WILD ANIMALS !**

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE WILD ANIMALS!:



Our area borders on a beautiful forest where wildlife makes their home. Those animals come into our area looking for an easy food source. Especially at this time of year, food scraps, peanuts, bird seed, etc. left on the ground all attract various wild animals like squirrels, chipmunks, crows & ravens, foxes, skunks, raccoons and mice & rats... **AND WE DON'T NEED MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE!**

When they can't find the food they want, then they do damage to homes looking for it, and can also cause problems for our pets.

10/ **WORK IN PROGRESS:** FLOODING on various Aileen-Willowbrook area streets!

There are several streets off Willowbrook which are low-lying ... and when it rains heavily, and you get snow-melting as well, the catch-basins on those streets are overwhelmed, and flooding occurs, not only on the street but also into basements of nearby homes.



The City is in the middle of assessing the degree of flooding and what kinds of remediation programs will be required for the Aileen-Willowbrook areas most affected.

If you have a flooding issue, please take pictures of your area with the problem, and email Eric Casper, the AWRA Director for flood problems, at AWRA.THORNHILL@GMAIL.COM

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11/ WORK IN PROGRESS: Harlech Crt. industrial area derelict vehicles and overgrown vegetation continues!



These issues are chronic and repetitive and continue to impact the Tamarack Dr. residents bordering on the industrial area on Harlech Crt., and also the residents of the north tower of Landmark Condominiums.



After repeated AWRA intervention over years, Ward 1 Councilor Keith Irish, and the City bylaw department are becoming more active in pursuing remediation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

12/ AWRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Scheduled for **NOVEMBER 6** at 7:00pm at Thornhill Community Centre.

On the agenda will be a brief review of what's happened in our community for the past year, and what's ahead in the coming year.

As well, we will have our elections for the positions of **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER**. **Directors** are appointed as appropriate to work on various projects.

We need more neighbours to participate on the AWRA executive team... please consider volunteering to help us make decisions and get action on neighbourhood issues.

13/ HELP Additional Volunteers needed



AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Residents Assn.) is keeping a watchful eye on our neighbourhood and the safety of our residents, looking for

opportunities for improvement in our area and in property values, and raising the red flag and lobbying when there are issues to be resolved.

Can someone help AWRA develop a website!



participating in the AWRA committees.

If you are interested, please email awra.thornhill@gmail.com with your name and contact information, & we will get right back to you.

High school, college and university students are welcome as well. For those seeking volunteer hours, they can be earned easily through

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AT \$50.00 PER NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS ATTACHED TO ALL REGULAR eMAILS TO OUR MEMBERS PER 4 MONTH PERIOD, SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL BUSINESSES. CIRCULATION TO APPROX. 2,000 HOMES -- eMAIL - awra.thornhill@gmail.com

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