

# AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – January 2017

## 1/ **Please renew your membership.**

**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](mailto:awra.thornhill@gmail.com)

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

## 2/ **STOP the proposed increase in dangerous-goods rail traffic through our area.**



Negotiations and lobbying is ongoing between Toronto residents, MetroLinx, CN and CP Rail to expand commuter rail traffic to the downtown core, and reroute their dangerous-goods rail traffic into the York Region area north of Steeles Ave. This is most visible at the Bayview Ave. bridge at the Longo's plaza and going under John St. just east of Aileen Rd. A toxic-goods accident in our area would be a massive disaster as residences border both sides of that line.

**Renew your membership please to help us continue to mount a credible resistance.**

## 2/ **Bayview Ave. traffic congestion will increase MASSIVELY over the next 5-7 years and our safety is being put at risk.**

The land is being vacated and cleared now of commercial and industrial units on Langstaff between Yonge St. and Bayview Ave, to make way for 30,000 homes. The Observatory Hill residential development just north of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue will introduce up to 1,500 new residents. Another 10,000-15,000 residences are planned for Bayview Ave. north of Elgin Mills. And these mean added car traffic down Bayview Ave.

Bayview Ave. is slated for widening but our area is not seen as high priority in the existing plans. Two serious bottlenecks exist at the bridge just south of Thornlea Secondary School and at the bridge crossing Bayview at the Longo's Plaza. We need to increase lobbying and pressure on Markham Council and the Ontario Gov't to bring relief to our area much sooner.



**Renew your membership please to help us continue to mount a credible lobby.**

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## **3/ The CN Rail crossing at Green Lane is a safety risk and damaging our vehicles!**



Transport Canada states that the CN Rail line crossing Green Lane is one of the busiest and most vital rail routes in the province... and we can attest to that because of the incessant car traffic blockages and rail car noise at all hours of the day and night... and that frequency of usage increasingly damages the rail and road bed on Green Lane, to the detriment of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Every few years, the City of Markham and CN have put in limited-term patches to the pavement on Green Lane over the crossing, which keep eroding and breaking down with increased frequency. We have been lobbying with the Provincial Gov't, the City of Markham and CN Rail to replace the whole crossing down to the foundations with a much more durable and long-term solution.

**Renew your membership please to help us continue to mount a forceful ongoing lobby.**

## **4/ Toxic-air monitoring at the Green Lane, Guardsman and Harlech Ct. areas needs more eyes and noses!**

The Aileen-Willowbrook area is one of very few areas in Markham where residential development was allowed to grow up around an industrial area, and over the years some of those industries intermittently dump toxic fumes into our residential air, jeopardizing the health of our residents and diminishing our quality of outdoor enjoyment. The City of Markham and Provincial Gov't. are aware of the issues, have forced some changes, but can't act on a timely basis unless complaints are received on a timely basis. AWRA has been actively lobbying for improvements, but we need more neighbourhood help.



**Renew your membership please to help us continue to lobby for safe and clean air and help us with air monitoring.**

## **5/ Aileen-Willowbrook beautification projects need more neighbourhood support!**



Our area is one of the oldest residential areas in Markham, and we have an increasing population moving into middle and senior ages. Cash infusion from the City of Markham has been lacking for beautification of the Thornhill Community Centre, improvements to areas for senior support projects, and updating of our parklands for better accessibility and enjoyment... compared to other areas of Markham.

**Renew your membership please to help us continue to lobby for our fair share of investment in area improvements.**

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## 6/ **Additional Volunteers needed!**



AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Ratepayers Assn.) is keeping a watchful eye on the neighbourhood and the safety of its 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.

At present there are only 4 members on the Executive Committee which limits the number of possible causes/issues and projects that can be undertaken.... again we are all Volunteers.

We are looking for more neighbours to participate in running the Association... please consider joining our Executive Committee so we can better keep our neighbourhood in tip-top shape.

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

If you are interested, please email [awra.thornhill@gmail.com](mailto:awra.thornhill@gmail.com) with your name and contact information, and we will get right back to you.

## **PLEASE JOIN US**

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