

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

... QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – July 2017 ...

1/ **SUCCESS:** Our membership is up 30% over last year!

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/ **SUCCESS:** CN Crossing at Green Lane

AWRA gets things done!



The potholes at the CN rail crossing at Green Lane have finally been eliminated!

CN has totally refurbished the road and crossing so that vehicles using the crossing will transit effortlessly, with minimal noise and avoid being damaged.

We are working with MP Mary Ng to action CN crews to cut the adjacent grass and remove litter.

3/ **SUCCESS:** Toxic-air monitoring

AWRA gets things done!

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

polluting firms to keep their air-scrubbers on and keep air pollution to acceptable standards.

Active resident monitoring at Green Lane/ Guardsman/Harlech industrial area has enabled AWRA to continue to keep up pressure on the

4/ **SUCCESS: Clean-up of Thornhill Square environment**

AWRA gets things done!



5/ **Work in Progress: Thornhill Community Centre refurbishment and beautification**



beautification

AWRA has been working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations and the City of Markham to push for rehabilitation of the Thornhill Community Centre and its environment. In response, the City fixed broken pavement and weeded unsightly planters. Yet Ratepayers believe more needs to be done. It is the busiest centre in Markham and residents report issues of safety for pedestrians, and especially for seniors and children.

AWRA has been working with Councilor Burke and Thornhill Square management to get rid of unsightly messes... ie. trash in various locations around bushes, in the parking lot, adjacent to the buildings, derelict Goodwill trailer near the recycling center, unsightly garbage area next to Java Joes, etc. This is not a one time fix and requires ongoing monitoring to adhere to Markham's prescribed proper standards.

A new issue is a recent TCC basement and Library flooding from the last major storm. This will be closely monitored by Ratepayers as storm water infrastructure may need an increase in capacity just like it was just upgraded west of Bayview Avenue.

6/ **Work In Progress: Missing-Link dangerous-goods rail corridor thru our neighbourhood.**

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**

[AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION \(AWRA\)](#)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com



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 and schools border both sides of that line.

AWRA is working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations and the City of Markham in mounting a credible political opposition to this project. This is a long term project and there is no short-term solution. The resistance must continue until such time as the intent is killed or a viable credible alternative can be found.

7/ Work
in
Progress:

AWRA is working with the other Thornhill Ratepayers Associations bordering Bayview Ave. in lobbying for increased intervention with City of

Bayview Ave. traffic congestion

The land is being vacated and cleared now of commercial and industrial units on Langstaff just east of Yonge St., to make way for approx. 5,000 homes over the next few years. Though the Langstaff area isn't in the Aileen-Willowbrook territory, we will be impacted by additional traffic onto Bayview and also down Willowbrook. Further development of another 25,000 homes along Langstaff to Bayview is contingent upon the Subway being built up to Highway 7, and Red Maple being extended across Hwy. 407 to Langstaff... so the pressure to widen Bayview Ave. has cooled for the time being... assuming the Subway extension won't be a reality for another 10-15 years.



Markham planners to see what can be done to provide traffic relief on Bayview.

8/ Work in Progress: **Various Projects Proposed**

a/ **Willowbrook & Aileen Roads have 9 speed bumps**, many of which have gone into disrepair with missing brickwork and asphalt. We need the City of Markham to attend to these problems.



b/ **Improvement of our parks** under the City of Markham's Parks Renaissance project is one of our goals, to improve parks accessibility and utility. The City has budgeted \$1,200,000, and parks within the Aileen-Willowbrook territory deserve their fair share... including **Windy Hill and Maple Valley**, to name a few.



You can help to make the dream come true if you **fill out the online form for one of the above parks at this link**, and in the free form space mention the objective as providing "connectivity" to your neighborhood https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScd19HxILmfDLsmg0vGHCgciH16b-cfQErBW_4VaoQ7Up6Q8w/viewform?c=0&w=1

[AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION \(AWRA\)](#)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

c/ **Aileen-Willowbrook Neighbourhood Picnic** – we haven't had one in this area for many years, and with the continuous turnover in home owners over the years, we never seem to have the opportunity to meet many of them. With this being the year of Canada's 150th Birthday, we're supporting aileen.willowbrook.picnic@gmail.com who are organizing one for **Sunday Aug. 20, 2:00 – 4:30pm**



at **Windy Hill Park** (behind Willowbrook Public School, or off Innisbrook, or off Breckonwood)... **and it's FREE!** Come out and meet your neighbours!

9/ **Additional Volunteers needed**



AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Ratepayers 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.



THESE A
SUPPO
CIR

We are a great team members on the Executive Committee. The number of possibilities that can be undertaken by our Volunteers.

We are looking for new members to help in running the Association. Our Executive Committee meets in the neighbourhood in tip

High school, college and university students are welcome as well. For more information, please contact us during our hours, they can be contacted by participating in the Association.

If you are interested in joining, please contact awra.thornhill@gmail.com for contact information, &

PLEASE JOIN US

We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood voice to Markham City Council.

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**