



AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – July 2020

(Published 3x per year)

Since our last newsletter, this is now the NEW NORMAL with COVID19.



For all our sakes, please practice ALL these routines regularly!



1/ Are you interested in having a COMMUNITY GARDEN in our area?

Several residents have expressed interest in having a community garden, where residents could rent a spot to plant their own vegetables, for themselves or to share with other residents.

Right now we are seeking out who else is interested in helping to plan, set up and participate in running the gardens... contact us at AWRA.THORNHILL@GMAIL.COM

If the demand is great enough and we have sufficient volunteers willing to participate, then AWRA will facilitate an organizational meeting to discuss the details and requirements involved.

2/ UPDATE ON TRIDEL DEVELOPMENT & ROYAL ORCHARD /BAYVIEW TRAFFIC IMPACT:

Arising from a May 13, 2020 meeting with Ward 1 Councilor Keith Irish, Liberty Developments, owners of the Shouldice property, are preparing a plan that allows for the Royal Orchard southbound ramp to be re-aligned to line up with the Green Lane lights. The plan is expected in the June-July 2020 timeframe.



Barring delays, this project should happen in approx. 3-4 years, once the storm drainage upgrade on Royal Orchard is completed sometime in 2022-23.

The Tridel project itself is also delayed for the same reason and timeframe.



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3/ WILLOWBROOK-AILEEN ROADWAY RECONDITIONING:

As you're aware, the \$6.2 million reconditioning of the curbs, sidewalks and roadway, including the speed bumps, is well underway. Where sidewalk panel edges were a mismatch causing a tripping hazard, those edges are being ground down, or the panels replaced. Where sidewalks

meet the street level, those are being redone to provide better accessibility and to make them AODA compliant. The speed bumps will be restored to their original condition on a like for like basis. Finally, the roadway will be resurfaced.



4/ PLEASE DON'T FEED THE WILD ANIMALS!

Please continue to be vigilant for people that put out food, and let us know!

Our area borders on a beautiful forest where wildlife makes their home. Those animals come into our area looking for an easy food source. 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.

SLOW DOWN

YOU LIVE HERE, WE LIVE HERE

5/ STOP SPEEDING PLEASE:

With the advent of Covid19 and the ensuing Provincial and Municipal government closings of schools and businesses, traffic on Green Lane and Willowbrook has been significantly reduced.., but **SPEEDING incidents have increased, especially on Green Lane and Guardsman.**

We are negotiating with the City of Markham to put up speed panels with cameras.

In the interim, we are implementing a Neighbourhood Watch on those streets. Please be observant and take pictures of the offending cars with their license plates... and send AWRA that information, or call York Region Police to file a report.



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6/ NO CAMPFIRES in WARD 1:

It is illegal under the City of Markham bylaws and Fire Department to make campfires anywhere in Ward 1.

Hikers going through Maple Valley Ravine have noticed unattended active campfires... if those had gotten out of control and caused the forest in the ravine to burn down, there would be a tragic loss of wildlife and enjoyable green space, as well as fire threats to homes bordering on the forest.

Please help us by actively watching for people setting campfires, and report to AWRA or the Fire Dept. if there are any that you see.



Markham Flooding Protection Rebate Program



7/ Flooding Protection Rebate Program:

The City of Markham has extended its private flooding protection program until April 30, 2022. Thirty local residents have taken advantage of the program at great savings. A flyer with program details will accompany this newsletter mailing.



8/ Cut Your Grass & Control Your Weeds – PLEASE !

It's that time of year folks to make your property look its best... for highest property values.



According to the Markham bylaws, **your grass should be less than 6" tall**, otherwise you could be fined... or the City will cut it and then bill you afterwards.



And green grass looks nicer and is healthier than yellow grass... so water your lawns at least 2x per week for at least 30 min.

The best time to water is about 4:30am in the early morning... before the sun comes up. This promotes maximum absorption. Unfortunately, if you water during the day, much of your water will evaporate because of the sun and heat, AND, the sun uses



the water as a magnifying glass and will cause burning of the grass.



If you have weeds, they are not only unsightly... ugly even... but when the weeds flower, the seeds are blown over to your neighbours' lawns, which causes a not friendly relationship and hurts them to spend on weed control.



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9/ **HELP** Can someone help AWRA develop a website!

AWRA (Aileen-Willowbrook Residents Assn.) is keeping a watchful eye on our neighbourhood and the safety of our residents. A website would allow us to extend our reach to more residents.



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 with your name and contact information, & we will get right back to you.

PLEASE JOIN US

We are your **volunteer** Neighbourhood Voice to Markham City Council. The CITY doesn't provide us funding, nor are we salaried.

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**

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