

AILEEN-WILLOWBROOK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (AWRA)

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

awra.thornhill@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER – March 2019

(Published 3x per year)

1/ **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/ **Work in Progress:** Speed-Bump Repairs

Willowbrook & Aileen Roads have 9 speed-bumps, with only 4 of 9 being repaired to original condition. However, the patches implemented in the last 2 months during the winter have not proved resilient and have broken down again with chunks of asphalt over the roadway and significant potholes. We are working with Markham Road Maintenance and our Councillor to get a more permanent fix.

3/ **Aileen-Willowbrook Neighbourhood Picnic:**

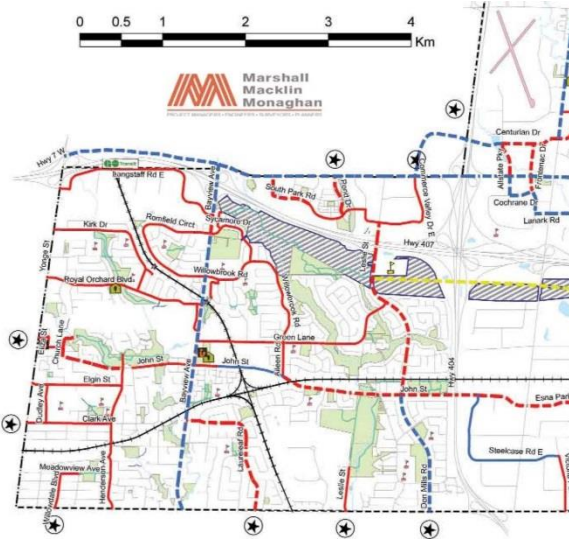
Our 2017 community picnic was a huge success, and plans are underway for another picnic in the summer of 2019. The date will be determined shortly and we'll keep you posted!



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4/ **Work in Progress:** Expanding the Regional Cycling Network to Thornhill

We are happy to see Markham investing in a Thornhill recreation project. On March 18, 2019 Council approved a Multi-Use Path (MUP) alongside John Street, from Bayview Avenue to past Hwy 404, to connect Thornhill to the Regional Cycling Network. The City received \$990K from the Province and will provide additional \$3.7M for the construction. Some trees will unfortunately have to be removed, but the City is committed to fully replacing those with high quality native species.

Markham is on the road to becoming a bicycle-friendly community by developing a network of almost 400 km of on and off-road bicycle routes. ... When complete, the cycling network will include on-road signed routes and bicycle lanes, and off-road multi-use pathways.

The map shown is only a miniscule portion of the whole map, as it pertains to the Ward 1 area.

5/ **Work in Progress:** Bayview Ave. traffic congestion

After the Public Meeting at the City on Jan. 22, 2019 and the heavy negative response from the Community, the plans for the 2 Tridel towers going in



on the east end of the ladies golf course on Royal Orchard and Bayview, has been referred back to the developers and City Planning to work on several major issues. Most notably are the problems relating to traffic at Bayview /Royal Orchard /Green Lane intersections, and the concern of how the City will handle similar issues if the ladies golf course decides to sell other parcels of their land in the future.



Ward 1 Councillor Keith Irish held another Public Meeting at the Thornhill Community Centre on March 27, 2019. The meeting was heavily attended but microphones were not provided to the audience. Nonetheless, AWRA and other local organizations again observed heavy opposition among residents in the audience. As well, there was a heavy presence by the private Ladies Golf Club, and we suspect few of those members likely live in the radius directly affected by the proposed construction of the Tridel towers at Royal Orchard and Bayview Ave.

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6/ **Work in Progress:** Improvement of our parks

AWRA is working to improve parks' accessibility and utility.

We have managed to have the old **Windy Hill Park** jungle gym replaced in January 2019. The old one presented an injury risk.



In October 2018, consultants were engaged by the City to come up with recommendations for walking/cycling paths through **Maple Valley and Valley View Parks**, with an outline of the project to be completed by March-April 2019. The recommendations will then be presented to City Council, and then a budget has to be approved.



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

AWRA gets things done!

AWRA's daily monitoring the air 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. However, wood dust detected daily coming from Raywal's dust collector may need to be addressed by the Ministry of the Environment.



8/ **Dogs Must Be On A Leash:** (This is a Markham Bylaw!)

A resident was very recently attacked and bitten by an off-leash dog at Braeburn Drive below the hill of Windy Hill Park.

There are **NO** dog off-leash areas in the Aileen-Willowbrook area.

That means all dogs that are off your property **MUST BE ON A LEASH**, whether walking on the street or in a local park.

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/permits-licenses-taxes/animal-services>

And if your dog is somewhat aggressive, the dog must also have a **muzzle!**



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9/ **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

10/ **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.

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 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.

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Maureen 647-299-3768
Xinyue.Mau@gmail.com
Fengshui Master

Rajiv Bhushan 416-562-8942
Bhushan.Rajiv@gmail.com
Sales Representative

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